PICTORIAL LOVE STORIES

NO. 24

10¢
F.P.I.

BEAUTY BRIEFS

ABSOLUTELY EVERYBODY WAS AT THE PARTY FOR DELLA CRANE--FOR DELLA HAD WON THE TRI-STATE BEAUTY CONTEST THAT AFTERNOON. YES, IT WAS A WONDERFUL PARTY--FOR EVERYONE BUT BESS MALLON!

BESS! BESS, IS THAT YOU?

Y--YES! HERE I AM, DELLA!

BESS. WHAT'S WRONG? I NOTICED YOU WEREN'T--I MEAN, YOU DIDN'T--

--GO AHEAD, SAY IT! NOBODY DANCES WITH ME--NOBODY PAYS ANY ATTENTION TO ME!

BUT WHY, DEAR,? YOU HAVE A LOVELY FACE AND FIGURE--

IT'S THIS AWFUL HAIR--IT LOOKS LIKE AN OLD USED MOP! DELLA, I'VE BEEN TO HAIRDRESSERS AND USED ALL KINDS OF THINGS-BUT IT'S NO USE!

AH, SO THAT'S IT! NOW YOU LISTEN TO ME, BESS MALLON! NO HAIRDRESSERS OR MEDICINES WILL HELP DULL, STRINGY HAIR A BIT! THERE'S ONLY ONE THING TO DO--BRUSH IT, BRUSH IT, BRUSH IT! BRUSH IT A HUNDRED STROKES EVERY NIGHT--AND I SAID **EVERY** NIGHT!

GEE, DELLA--IS THAT WHAT MAKES YOUR HAIR SO LOVELY? I'LL DO IT--I'LL DO IT IF IT KILLS ME!

BESS FOLLOWED DELLA'S INSTRUCTIONS--SHE EVEN IMPROVED UPON THEM!

ONE HUNDRED--THERE! WELL, IF I CAN MAKE ONE HUNDRED STROKES WITH ONE HAND--I CAN DO ANOTHER HUNDRED WITH THE OTHER HAND AND I WILL!

TWO HUNDRED! I-I THINK IT DOES LOOK BETTER! WELL, NOW I'LL WASH OUT THIS BRUSH--DELLA SAID TO BE SURE TO KEEP IT CLEAN---

--AND SO, TWO MONTHS LATER--

GEE, BESS--YOU SURE DO LOOK PRETTY TONIGHT! YOU-YOU'VE CHANGED!

NOW, TOMMY--WHAT A WAY TO COMPLIMENT A GIRL! BUT THANK YOU JUST THE SAME!

MY, LOOK AT BESSES HAIR --IT LOOKS LIKE SPUN GOLD!

THAT'S THE PRETTIEST HAIR I'VE EVER SEEN! LET'S ASK HER WHAT HER SECRET IS!

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HOTEL HOPEFUL

HOTEL HOPEFUL IS REALLY MRS. MICHAELS BOARDING HOUSE FOR GIRLS ON A SIDE STREET IN ONE OF OUR GREAT CITIES. THE GIRLS WHO LIVE THERE COME FROM EVERY CORNER OF OUR NATION, SEEKING FAME, FORTUNE -- LOVE, PERHAPS. SOME FIND WHAT THEY SEEK -- WHILE THE HOPES OF OTHERS ARE SHATTERED AND THEY FALL BACK INTO OBSCURITY. LET'S LOOK IN -- A NEW GIRL HAS JUST ARRIVED! IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE SHE, LIKE ALL THE OTHERS, LEARN TO CALL THIS HOUSE -- **HOTEL HOPEFUL!**

"AND THIS IS OUR FAMOUS ROGUES GALLERY. YOU'VE PROBABLY HEARD OF IT. THERE'S MANY A FACE HERE THAT'S KNOWN THE WORLD OVER -- BUT NOT ONE OF THEM MEANT A THING WHEN THEY FIRST STEPPED INTO THIS HOUSE ---

ISN'T THAT CLEO MARTIN, THE FAMOUS DANCER? GEE, I WISH I COULD BE LIKE SHE IS! I'M A DANCER TOO, MRS. MICHEALS.--

CALL ME AUNT MIKE, CHILD -- THEY ALL DO! SO YOU'RE A DANCER! WELL, I HOPE YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO THROUGH WHAT CLEO DID TO MAKE YOUR MARK!

WHY, WHAT HAPPENED TO HER? I NEVER HEARD ANYTHING --

YOU NEVER HEARD THE STORY OF CLEO MARTIN? WELL, SIT DOWN, DEAR, AND I'LL TELL IT TO YOU. MAYBE IT WILL GIVE YOU THE STRENGTH TO HANDLE YOUR OWN TROUBLES WHEN THEY COME ALONG -- AND THEY WILL, IN SHOW-BUSINESS!

CLEO WAS A SWEET CHILD WHEN SHE ARRIVED HERE-- STRAIGHT FROM SOME COUNTRY COLLEGE. SHE WAS A FINE LITTLE DANCER, TOO--LANDED A JOB IN THE CHORUS OF "ALONG PARK AVENUE" RIGHT AWAY. BUT THE STORY REALLY BEGINS ONE NIGHT WHEN SHE CAME IN ALL EXCITED--

OH, AUNT MIKE, WILL YOU PLEASE HELP ME PRESS MY EVENING GOWN? I'VE GOT A SPECIAL, DOUBLE SPECIAL DATE!

OF COURSE I WILL, DEAR! GOING OUT WITH JIMMY AGAIN?

CLEO HAD A BOYFRIEND, YOU SEE--A YOUNG SINGER IN THE SHOW. BUT YOU KNOW HOW A YOUNG GIRL CAN BE! SHE WAS SO FULL OF HER CAREER THAT SHE REALLY DIDN'T NOTICE HOW CRAZY ABOUT HER THE POOR FELLOW HAD BECOME!

OH, NO--JIMMY'S NOT SPECIAL! THIS IS REALLY SOMETHING--BUT--IT'S A SECRET!

WELL, TWENTY MINUTES LATER, WHEN CLEO CAME DOWN LOOKING LIKE AN ANGEL FROM HEAVEN--THERE WAS JIMMY!

HI, CLEO! HEY! WHY THE GLAD RAGS! WE'RE JUST GOING FOR A SODA!

OH, JIMMY,--I-I FORGOT! GOSH, I'M SORRY--BUT I HAVE--ANOTHER ENGAGEMENT!

BUT, CLEO--! I DON'T GET IT! WHO'S TAKING YOU OUT?

THAT MUST BE HIM NOW! GOOD-BYE, JIMMY--I'M SORRY!

TAKE IT EASY, JIMMY! SHE'S YOUNG, YOU KNOW!

WELL, I WANT TO SEE WHO SHE'S GOING WITH ANYWAY!

I MUST ADMIT I'D LIKE TO KNOW MYSELF--GOOD GRAVY! DO YOU KNOW WHO THAT IS?

WHO DOESN'T KNOW MARK BELL? HOT-SHOT STAR OF STAGE AND SCREEN! WHY, HE'S FIFTY IF HE'S A DAY, AUNT MIKE--AND THE BIGGEST WOLF IN TOWN! I DON'T LIKE THIS AT ALL!

DON'T WORRY, JIMMY--IT'S PROBABLY JUST PUBLICITY! SHE COULDN'T BE INTERESTED IN A MAN LIKE THAT!

BUT I WAS WRONG--CLEO DID SEEM TO BE INTERESTED IN BELL. I COULDN'T HELP SEEING IT--THEIR NAMES WERE LINKED IN THE NEWSPAPERS, ON THE RADIO---

BROADWAY HIGHLIGHTS

MARK BELL AND NEW ATTRACTIVE BEAUTY, GRACE THE CLOVER CLUB

AND HERE COMES MARK BELL WITH HIS BEAUTIFUL MYSTERY GIRL, FOLKS! THEY SAY HER NAME IS CLEO MARTIN! PERHAPS THEY'LL SAY A FEW WORDS--

I WAS VERY FOND OF CLEO AND SO WERE THE REST OF THE GIRLS. WE TRIED TO TALK TO HER, TO TELL HER SHE WAS HEADING FOR TROUBLE--BUT IT WASN'T MUCH USE--

CLEO! COME HERE A MINUTE, DEAR. WE WANT TO SEE YOU

I'M SORRY, AUNT MIKE--MARK IS WAITING FOR ME OUTSIDE.

SHE'S REALLY ON HER MERRY WAY ISN'T SHE?

THEN ONE AFTERNOON WE DID TALK TO HER--BUT IT WAS STILL NO USE--

SO DON'T YOU SEE, DEAR? WE DON'T WANT TO BUTT IN, BUT WE CAN'T HELP WANTING TO WARN YOU! MARK BELL HAS A REPUTATION THAT ISN'T GOOD FOR ANY GIRL! WHY HE'S ONE OF THE WORST WOMAN CHASERS IN---

HE IS NOT! HE'S A FINE--OH, YOU MUSN'T TALK LIKE THAT!

HONEY, EVERYBODY KNOWS WHAT KIND OF A MAN HE IS--

YOU CAN'T TRUST HIM!

HE'S A HIGH GRADE WOLF!

BUT HE ISN'T! I KNOW BECAUSE--OH YOU JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND! PLEASE DON'T TALK ABOUT IT ANY MORE!

BUT, CLEO--!

HE'S NOT FOR YOU!

DON'T BE A SAP, CLEO, HE'LL MAKE A FOOL OF--

I ASKED YOU NOT TO TALK ABOUT IT. WELL, IF I MUST MAKE IT STRONGER--I'LL THANK YOU TO MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS!

SHE HAD US WORRIED SICK, ALL OF US--AND YET THERE DIDN'T SEEM TO BE A THING WE COULD DO. CLEO THREATENED TO MOVE AWAY IF WE BROUGHT THE SUBJECT UP AGAIN! AND THEN, ON TOP OF IT ALL--SHE HAD A FIGHT WITH POOR JIMMY--

CLEO, I'M NOT ASKING YOU FOR MYSELF, THOUGH YOU KNOW HOW I FEEL ABOUT YOU! IT'S BECAUSE I KNOW HOW BADLY YOU MAY GET HURT IF YOU DON'T STOP SEEING MARK BELL!

JIMMY, YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE SAYING! I CAN'T DESERT HIM NOW--HE'S BEEN ILL--AND LONELY! HE NEEDS ME!

CLEO, I NEED YOU TOO--MORE THAN BELL DOES! I LOVE YOU, DARLING--!

DON'T JIMMY--NOT NOW! HOW CAN I CARE FOR YOU--WHEN YOU DON'T TRUST ME?

GOOD--GOOD-BYE, JIMMY. I HAVE A DATE--I'LL HAVE TO--GO NOW!

JIMMY, DON'T GO LIKE THIS. COME OUT IN THE KITCHEN AND HAVE A CUP OF TEA WITH ME--IT'LL WARM YOU UP!

NO, THANKS, AUNT MIKE! I--WELL, ALL RIGHT! I MIGHT AS WELL I GUESS.

I GUESS WE SAT THERE FOR AN HOUR AFTER CLEO WENT OUT. I DID MY BEST TO CHEER THE POOR BOY UP A LITTLE, BUT I DIDN'T MAKE MUCH PROGRESS. THEN, AS WE LISTENED TO FINCHELL ON THE RADIO--IT HAPPENED!

FLASH! LESS THAN TEN MINUTES AGO, MARK BELL WAS CRITICALLY WOUNDED BY A GUNSHOT IN HIS SWANK HIGH TERRACE APARTMENT! EMPLOYEES OF THE BUILDING WHO BROKE IN AFTER HEARING THE SHOT FOUND CLEO MARTIN, GUN IN HAND, STANDING OVER THE BODY---

CLEO! OH, NO!

HEAVEN FORBID! JIMMY, I'M GOING OVER THERE.

SO AM I, AUNT MIKE! THE POOR KID'LL NEED A FRIEND OR TWO!

LET'S GO!

WELL, IT WAS A NIGHTMARE OF NOISE AND FLASH BULBS AT THE HIGH TERRACE WHEN WE GOT THERE. BUT BY THE USE OF A WHITE LIE OR TWO, WHICH I'VE NEVER REGRETTED, JIMMY AND I GOT INSIDE THE APARTMENT AND FOUND CLEO--

HEY! YOU CAN'T GO IN THERE--!

AND I'M HER LAWYER--COME ON, AUNT MIKE!

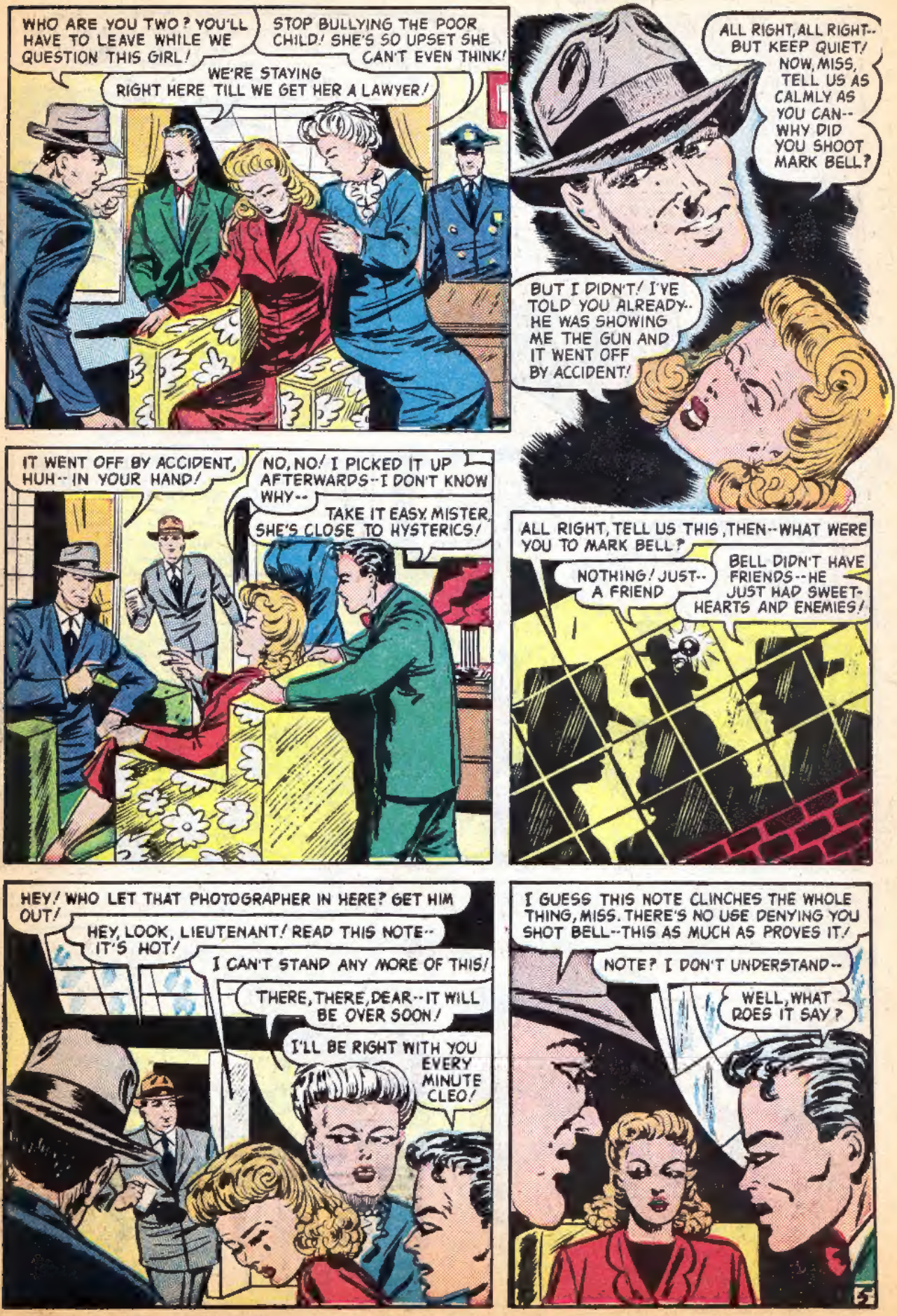
OUT OF ME WAY, YE FLATFOOT! I'M THAT YOUNG GIRL'S GUARDIAN!

OH, AUNT MIKE! JIMMY! I'M SO GLAD TO SEE YOU!

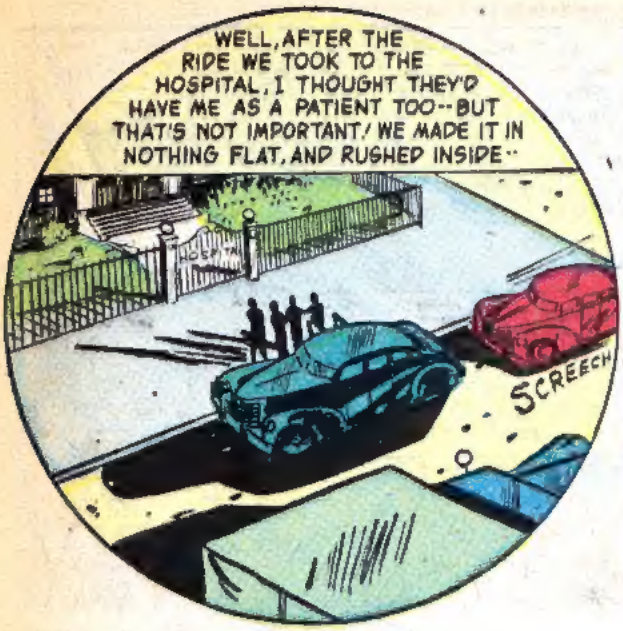
HERE, SWEETHEART, YOU STOP CRYING NOW!

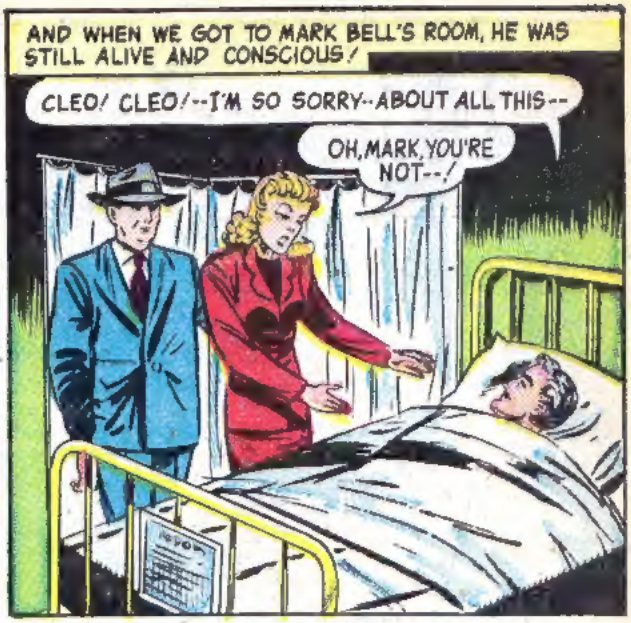
EVERYTHING WILL BE ALL RIGHT, CLEO!

STEP ON IT, JACK, HE'S STILL ALIVE, BUT WE GOTTA GET HIM TO A HOSPITAL QUICK!

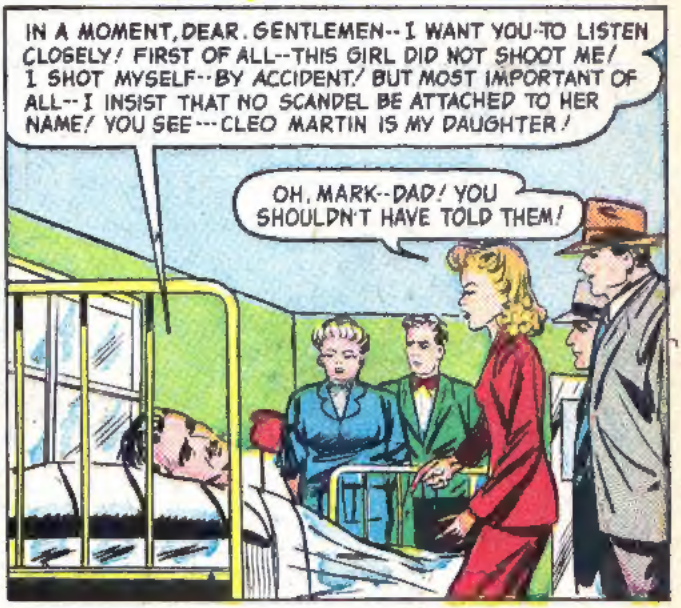

WHO ARE YOU TWO? YOU'LL HAVE TO LEAVE WHILE WE QUESTION THIS GIRL!
STOP BULLYING THE POOR CHILD! SHE'S SO UPSET SHE CAN'T EVEN THINK!
WE'RE STAYING RIGHT HERE TILL WE GET HER A LAWYER!
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT-- BUT KEEP QUIET! NOW, MISS, TELL US AS CALMLY AS YOU CAN-- WHY DID YOU SHOOT MARK BELL?
BUT I DIDN'T! I'VE TOLD YOU ALREADY-- HE WAS SHOWING ME THE GUN AND IT WENT OFF BY ACCIDENT!
IT WENT OFF BY ACCIDENT, HUH-- IN YOUR HAND!
NO, NO! I PICKED IT UP AFTERWARDS--I DON'T KNOW WHY--
TAKE IT EASY, MISTER, SHE'S CLOSE TO HYSTERICS!
ALL RIGHT, TELL US THIS, THEN--WHAT WERE YOU TO MARK BELL?
NOTHING! JUST-- A FRIEND
BELL DIDN'T HAVE FRIENDS--HE JUST HAD SWEETHEARTS AND ENEMIES!
HEY! WHO LET THAT PHOTOGRAPHER IN HERE? GET HIM OUT!
HEY, LOOK, LIEUTENANT! READ THIS NOTE-- IT'S HOT!
I CAN'T STAND ANY MORE OF THIS!
THERE, THERE, DEAR--IT WILL BE OVER SOON!
I'LL BE RIGHT WITH YOU EVERY MINUTE CLEO!
I GUESS THIS NOTE CLINCHES THE WHOLE THING, MISS. THERE'S NO USE DENYING YOU SHOT BELL--THIS AS MUCH AS PROVES IT!
NOTE? I DON'T UNDERSTAND--
WELL, WHAT DOES IT SAY?
5

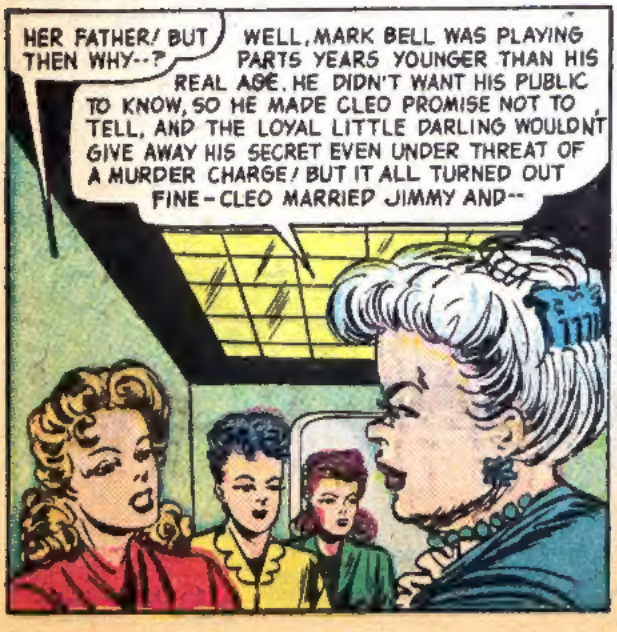
DARLING CLEO, I HAVE DECIDED IT WILL BE BEST IF WE STOP SEEING EACH OTHER. HEAVEN KNOWS I LOVE YOU, BUT WE CAN'T GO ON THIS WAY--IT'S TOO MUCH OF A STRAIN FOR BOTH OF US. I'M GOING TO SLIP THIS NOTE INTO YOUR PURSE BEFORE I TAKE YOU HOME TONIGHT. GOD BLESS YOU! MARK--
BUT--I DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT--
OF COURSE YOU DON'T, DEAR!
WHAT DOES IT PROVE?
I SAY IT WOULD PROVE TO A JURY THAT BELL WAS GIVING HER THE BRUSH, SO SHE BLEW HER TOP AND SHOT HIM! WHY DON'T YOU ADMIT IT, MISS MARTIN?
IT ISN'T LIKE THAT AT ALL! I KNOW WHY HE WROTE THE NOTE, BUT--
CLEO, DARLING, IF YOU DO KNOW, TELL THEM ABOUT IT! WHAT HAVE YOU TO HIDE?
I-I CAN'T, JIMMY! I JUST CAN'T!
I'M GIVING YOU ONE MORE CHANCE, MISS! IF YOU CONFESS NOW, IT WILL GO A LOT EASIER FOR YOU--
DON'T BE AN IDIOT! THIS CHILD WOULDN'T SHOOT ANYBODY!
HEY, LIEUTENANT!
MESSAGE FROM THE HOSPITAL, LIEUTENANT. THEY'RE OPERATING ON BELL NOW--BUT HE HAS ONE CHANCE IN A HUNDRED OF PULLING THROUGH!
HEAR THAT, MISS MARTIN! YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS, DON'T YOU
YOU MEAN--IF--IF HE DOESN'T--
THAT'S RIGHT! IF HE DOESN'T LIVE--I'M CHARGING YOU WITH MURDER!
OH, NO--NO!
CLEO! EASY, DARLING--YOU KNOW YOU DIDN'T DO IT!
WELL, LET'S GO, MISS MARTIN! WE'LL TAKE YOU DOWN TO HEADQUARTERS AND--
HOLD IT, LIEUTENANT--HOLD IT! THE D.A. JUST PHONED! HE SAID TO RUSH THIS DAME DOWN TO THAT HOSPITAL, BUT FAST!

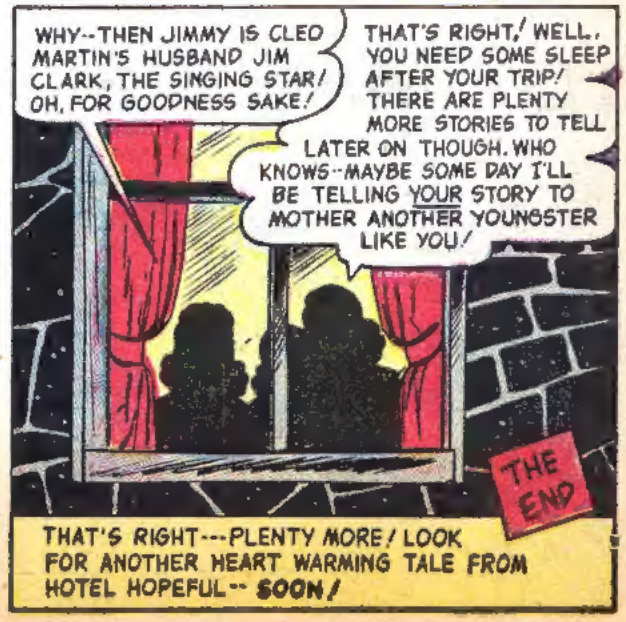

WELL, AFTER THE RIDE WE TOOK TO THE HOSPITAL, I THOUGHT THEY'D HAVE ME AS A PATIENT TOO--BUT THAT'S NOT IMPORTANT! WE MADE IT IN NOTHING FLAT, AND RUSHED INSIDE--
HOSPITAL
SCREECH

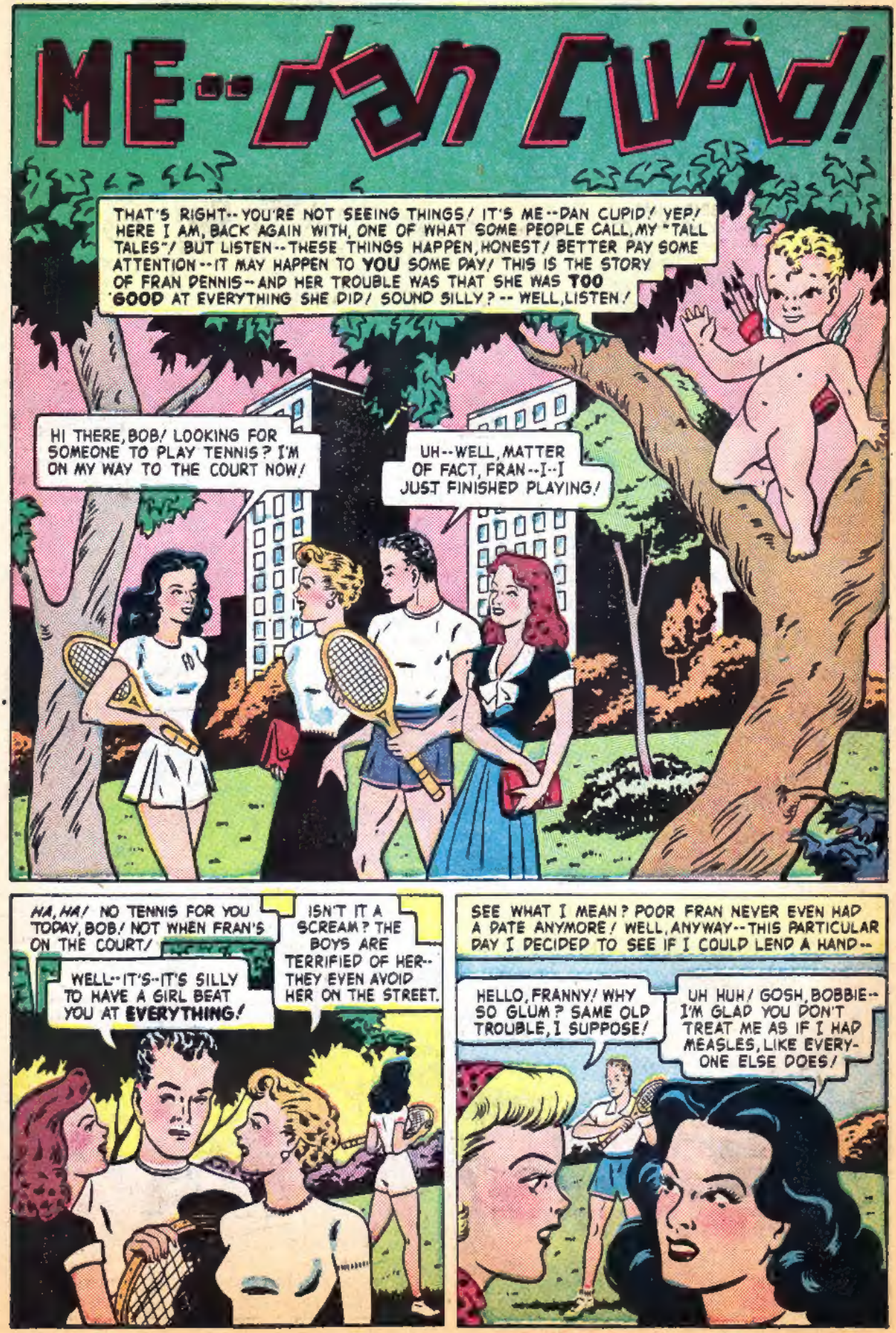

AND WHEN WE GOT TO MARK BELL'S ROOM, HE WAS STILL ALIVE AND CONSCIOUS!
CLEO! CLEO!--I'M SO SORRY--ABOUT ALL THIS--
OH, MARK, YOU'RE NOT--!

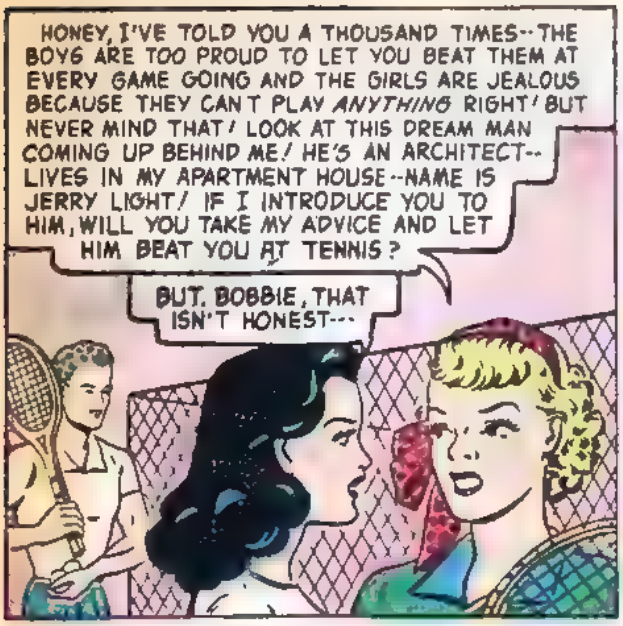
NO, DEAR--I'M STILL ALIVE, AND THE DOCTOR--SAYS I PROBABLY--WILL STAY THAT WAY! BUT I WANTED TO SEE YOU--JUST IN CASE!
DON'T TALK, YOU MUST REST!

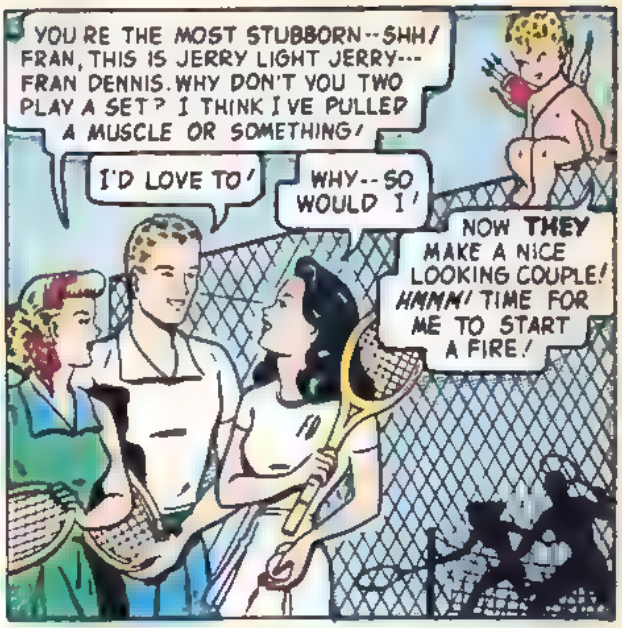

IN A MOMENT, DEAR. GENTLEMEN--I WANT YOU TO LISTEN CLOSELY! FIRST OF ALL--THIS GIRL DID NOT SHOOT ME! I SHOT MYSELF--BY ACCIDENT! BUT MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL--I INSIST THAT NO SCANDEL BE ATTACHED TO HER NAME! YOU SEE---CLEO MARTIN IS MY DAUGHTER!
OH, MARK--DAD! YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE TOLD THEM!

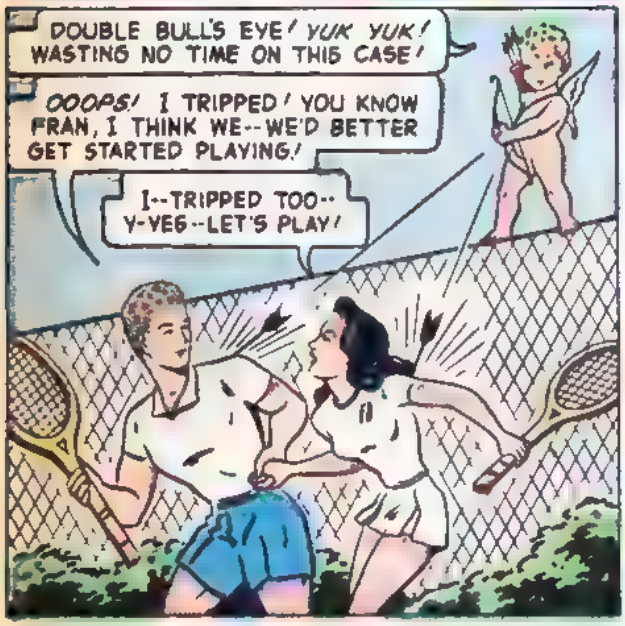

HER FATHER! BUT THEN WHY--?
WELL, MARK BELL WAS PLAYING PARTS YEARS YOUNGER THAN HIS REAL AGE. HE DIDN'T WANT HIS PUBLIC TO KNOW, SO HE MADE CLEO PROMISE NOT TO TELL, AND THE LOYAL LITTLE DARLING WOULDN'T GIVE AWAY HIS SECRET EVEN UNDER THREAT OF A MURDER CHARGE! BUT IT ALL TURNED OUT FINE--CLEO MARRIED JIMMY AND--

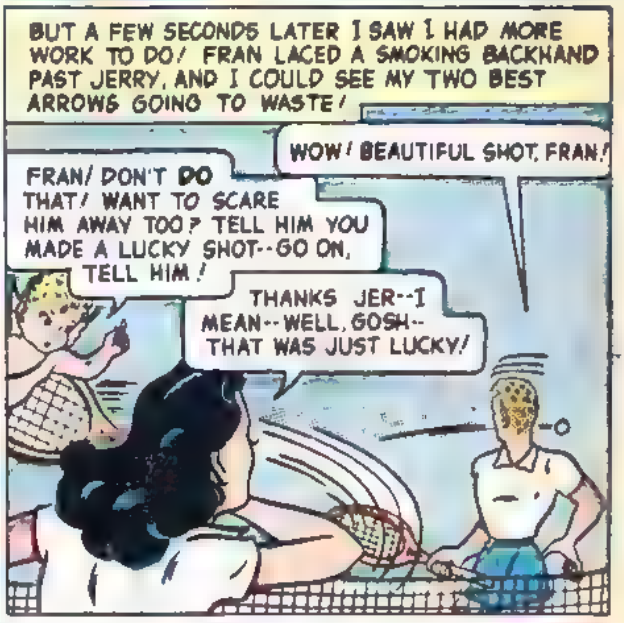

WHY--THEN JIMMY IS CLEO MARTIN'S HUSBAND JIM CLARK, THE SINGING STAR! OH, FOR GOODNESS SAKE!
THAT'S RIGHT,! WELL., YOU NEED SOME SLEEP AFTER YOUR TRIP! THERE ARE PLENTY MORE STORIES TO TELL LATER ON THOUGH. WHO KNOWS--MAYBE SOME DAY I'LL BE TELLING YOUR STORY TO MOTHER ANOTHER YOUNGSTER LIKE YOU!
THE END
THAT'S RIGHT---PLENTY MORE! LOOK FOR ANOTHER HEART WARMING TALE FROM HOTEL HOPEFUL-- SOON!

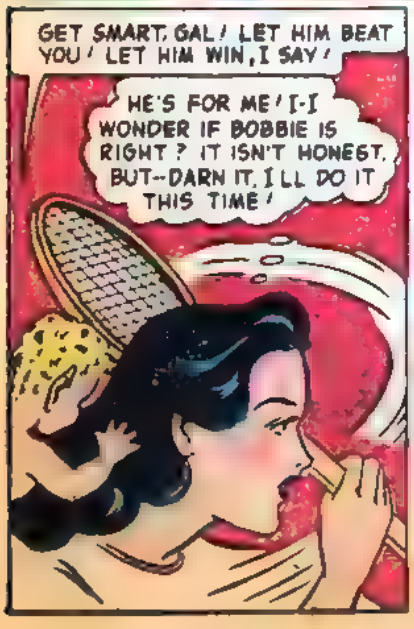

ME--DAN CUPID!
THAT'S RIGHT--YOU'RE NOT SEEING THINGS/ IT'S ME--DAN CUPID/ YEP/ HERE I AM, BACK AGAIN WITH, ONE OF WHAT SOME PEOPLE CALL, MY "TALL TALES"/ BUT LISTEN--THESE THINGS HAPPEN, HONEST/ BETTER PAY SOME ATTENTION--IT MAY HAPPEN TO YOU SOME DAY/ THIS IS THE STORY OF FRAN DENNIS--AND HER TROUBLE WAS THAT SHE WAS TOO GOOD AT EVERYTHING SHE DID/ SOUND SILLY?--WELL, LISTEN/
HI THERE, BOB/ LOOKING FOR SOMEONE TO PLAY TENNIS? I'M ON MY WAY TO THE COURT NOW/
UH--WELL, MATTER OF FACT, FRAN--I--I JUST FINISHED PLAYING/
HA, HA/ NO TENNIS FOR YOU TODAY, BOB/ NOT WHEN FRAN'S ON THE COURT/
WELL--IT'S--IT'S SILLY TO HAVE A GIRL BEAT YOU AT EVERYTHING/
ISN'T IT A SCREAM? THE BOYS ARE TERRIFIED OF HER--THEY EVEN AVOID HER ON THE STREET.
SEE WHAT I MEAN? POOR FRAN NEVER EVEN HAD A DATE ANYMORE/ WELL, ANYWAY--THIS PARTICULAR DAY I DECIDED TO SEE IF I COULD LEND A HAND--
HELLO, FRANNY/ WHY SO GLUM? SAME OLD TROUBLE, I SUPPOSE/
UH HUH/ GOSH, BOBBIE--I'M GLAD YOU DON'T TREAT ME AS IF I HAD MEASLES, LIKE EVERY-ONE ELSE DOES/


HONEY, I'VE TOLD YOU A THOUSAND TIMES--THE BOYS ARE TOO PROUD TO LET YOU BEAT THEM AT EVERY GAME GOING AND THE GIRLS ARE JEALOUS BECAUSE THEY CAN'T PLAY ANYTHING RIGHT! BUT NEVER MIND THAT! LOOK AT THIS DREAM MAN COMING UP BEHIND ME! HE'S AN ARCHITECT--LIVES IN MY APARTMENT HOUSE--NAME IS JERRY LIGHT! IF I INTRODUCE YOU TO HIM, WILL YOU TAKE MY ADVICE AND LET HIM BEAT YOU AT TENNIS?
BUT, BOBBIE, THAT ISN'T HONEST---


YOU'RE THE MOST STUBBORN--SHH! FRAN, THIS IS JERRY LIGHT JERRY--- FRAN DENNIS. WHY DON'T YOU TWO PLAY A SET? I THINK I'VE PULLED A MUSCLE OR SOMETHING!
I'D LOVE TO!
WHY--SO WOULD I!
NOW THEY MAKE A NICE LOOKING COUPLE! HMMM! TIME FOR ME TO START A FIRE!

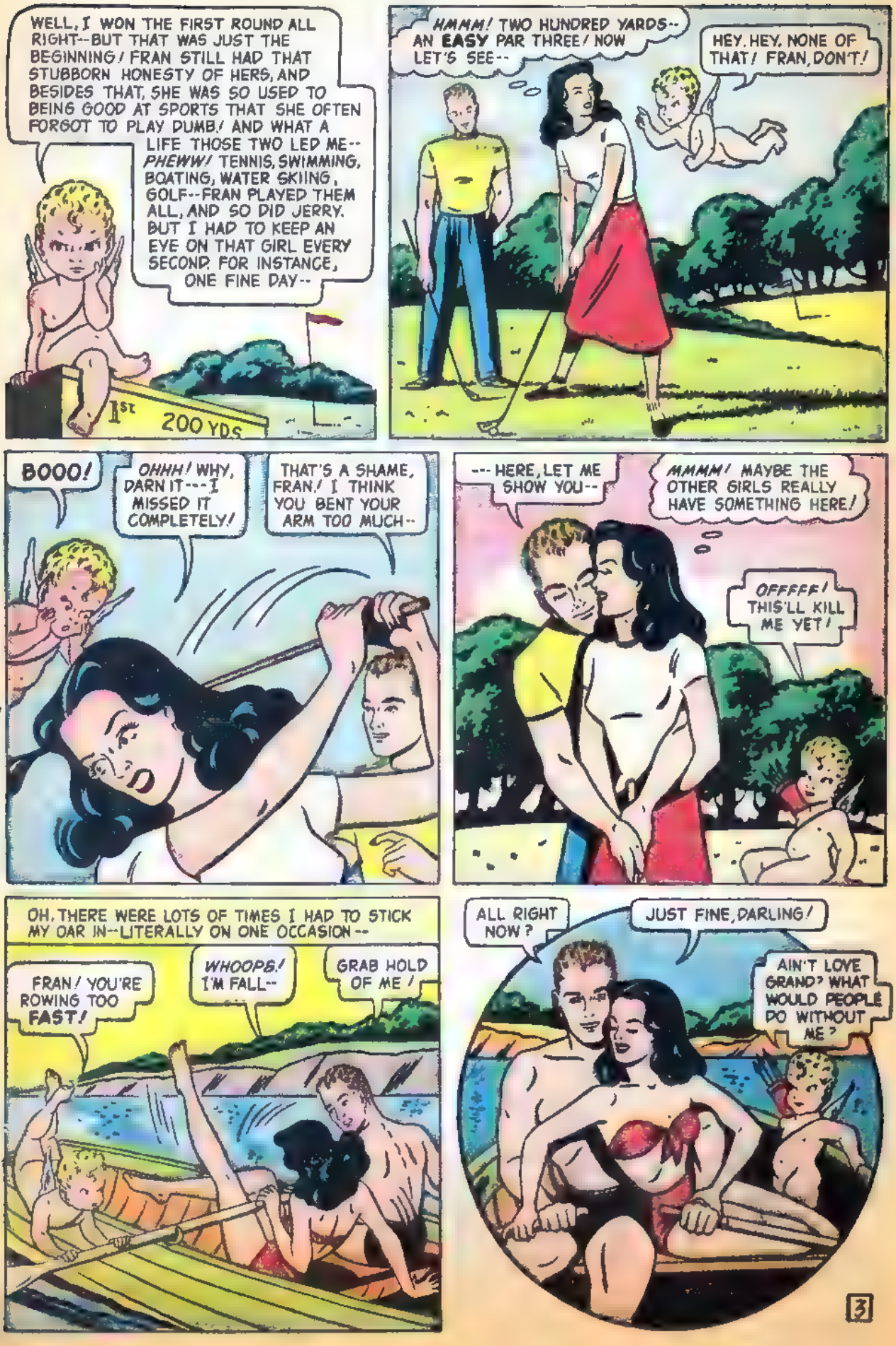

DOUBLE BULL'S EYE! YUK YUK! WASTING NO TIME ON THIS CASE!
OOOPS! I TRIPPED! YOU KNOW FRAN, I THINK WE--WE'D BETTER GET STARTED PLAYING!
I--TRIPPED TOO-- Y-YES--LET'S PLAY!

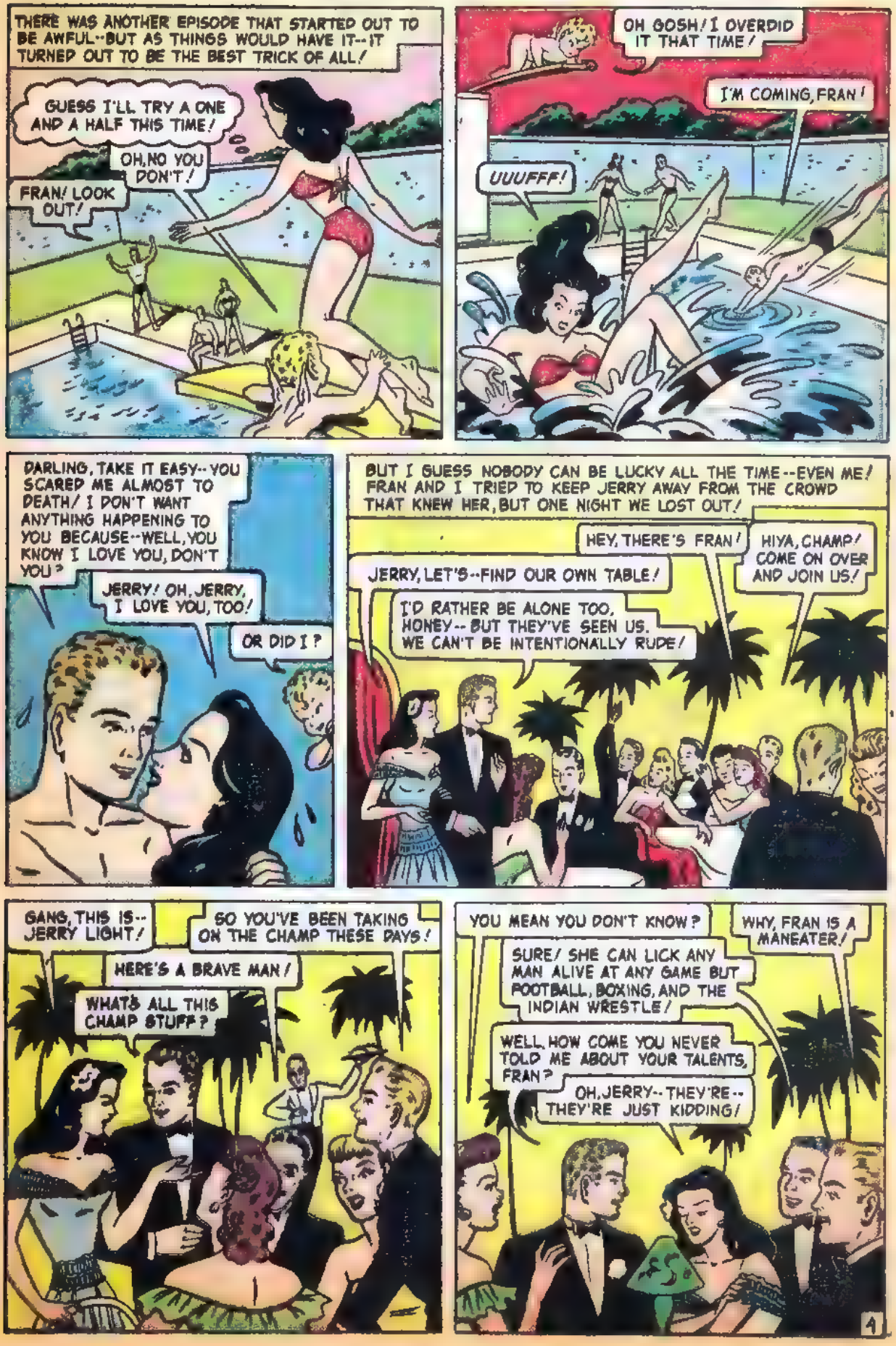

BUT A FEW SECONDS LATER I SAW I HAD MORE WORK TO DO! FRAN LACED A SMOKING BACKHAND PAST JERRY, AND I COULD SEE MY TWO BEST ARROWS GOING TO WASTE!
WOW! BEAUTIFUL SHOT, FRAN!
FRAN! DON'T DO THAT! WANT TO SCARE HIM AWAY TOO? TELL HIM YOU MADE A LUCKY SHOT--GO ON, TELL HIM!
THANKS JER--I MEAN--WELL, GOSH--THAT WAS JUST LUCKY!

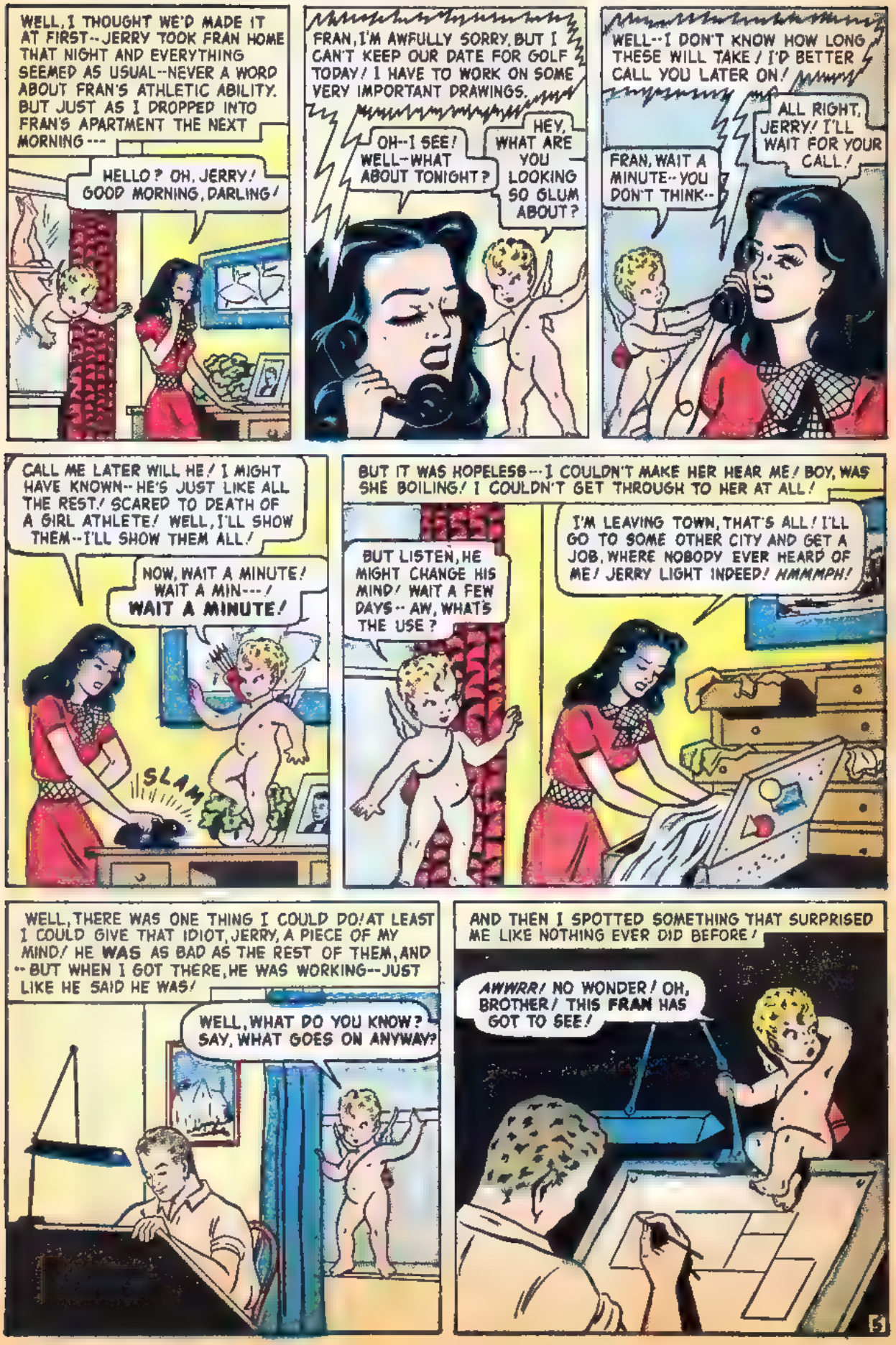

GET SMART, GAL! LET HIM BEAT YOU! LET HIM WIN, I SAY!
HE'S FOR ME! I-I WONDER IF BOBBIE IS RIGHT? IT ISN'T HONEST, BUT--DARN IT, I'LL DO IT THIS TIME!

AND SHE DID TOO SOOO--A FEW MINUTES LATER--
WELL, YOU CERTAINLY CAN PLAY TENNIS, JERRY!
YOU WEREN'T FAR BEHIND, FRAN! YOU'RE NOT BAD YOURSELF!

FRAN--HOW ABOUT A DATE TONIGHT--JUST THE TWO OF US?
I'D LIKE THAT, JERRY--VERY MUCH!
AHA! WE'RE OFF TO THE ROMANTIC RACES! YAHOO!
COME ON, YOU TWO, YOU'VE BEEN STANDING THERE FOR TEN MINUTES!


WELL, I WON THE FIRST ROUND ALL RIGHT--BUT THAT WAS JUST THE BEGINNING! FRAN STILL HAD THAT STUBBORN HONESTY OF HERS, AND BESIDES THAT, SHE WAS SO USED TO BEING GOOD AT SPORTS THAT SHE OFTEN FORGOT TO PLAY DUMB! AND WHAT A LIFE THOSE TWO LED ME-- PHEWW! TENNIS, SWIMMING, BOATING, WATER SKIING, GOLF--FRAN PLAYED THEM ALL, AND SO DID JERRY. BUT I HAD TO KEEP AN EYE ON THAT GIRL EVERY SECOND. FOR INSTANCE, ONE FINE DAY--
1ST 200 YDS
HMMM! TWO HUNDRED YARDS-- AN EASY PAR THREE! NOW LET'S SEE--
HEY, HEY, NONE OF THAT! FRAN, DON'T!
BOOO!
OHHH! WHY, DARN IT---I MISSED IT COMPLETELY!
THAT'S A SHAME, FRAN! I THINK YOU BENT YOUR ARM TOO MUCH--
--- HERE, LET ME SHOW YOU--
MMMM! MAYBE THE OTHER GIRLS REALLY HAVE SOMETHING HERE!
OFFFFF! THIS'LL KILL ME YET!
OH, THERE WERE LOTS OF TIMES I HAD TO STICK MY OAR IN--LITERALLY ON ONE OCCASION--
FRAN! YOU'RE ROWING TOO FAST!
WHOOPS! I'M FALL--
GRAB HOLD OF ME!
ALL RIGHT NOW?
JUST FINE, DARLING!
AIN'T LOVE GRAND? WHAT WOULD PEOPLE DO WITHOUT ME?


THERE WAS ANOTHER EPISODE THAT STARTED OUT TO BE AWFUL--BUT AS THINGS WOULD HAVE IT--IT TURNED OUT TO BE THE BEST TRICK OF ALL!
GUESS I'LL TRY A ONE AND A HALF THIS TIME!
OH, NO YOU DON'T!
FRAN! LOOK OUT!
OH GOSH! I OVERDID IT THAT TIME!
I'M COMING, FRAN!
UUUFFF!
DARLING, TAKE IT EASY--YOU SCARED ME ALMOST TO DEATH! I DON'T WANT ANYTHING HAPPENING TO YOU BECAUSE--WELL, YOU KNOW I LOVE YOU, DON'T YOU?
JERRY! OH, JERRY, I LOVE YOU, TOO!
OR DID I?
BUT I GUESS NOBODY CAN BE LUCKY ALL THE TIME--EVEN ME! FRAN AND I TRIED TO KEEP JERRY AWAY FROM THE CROWD THAT KNEW HER, BUT ONE NIGHT WE LOST OUT!
HEY, THERE'S FRAN!
HIYA, CHAMP! COME ON OVER AND JOIN US!
JERRY, LET'S--FIND OUR OWN TABLE!
I'D RATHER BE ALONE TOO, HONEY--BUT THEY'VE SEEN US. WE CAN'T BE INTENTIONALLY RUDE!
GANG, THIS IS--JERRY LIGHT!
SO YOU'VE BEEN TAKING ON THE CHAMP THESE DAYS!
HERE'S A BRAVE MAN!
WHAT'S ALL THIS CHAMP STUFF?
YOU MEAN YOU DON'T KNOW?
WHY, FRAN IS A MANEATER!
SURE! SHE CAN LICK ANY MAN ALIVE AT ANY GAME BUT FOOTBALL, BOXING, AND THE INDIAN WRESTLE!
WELL, HOW COME YOU NEVER TOLD ME ABOUT YOUR TALENTS, FRAN?
OH, JERRY--THEY'RE--THEY'RE JUST KIDDING!
4


WELL, I THOUGHT WE'D MADE IT AT FIRST--JERRY TOOK FRAN HOME THAT NIGHT AND EVERYTHING SEEMED AS USUAL--NEVER A WORD ABOUT FRAN'S ATHLETIC ABILITY. BUT JUST AS I DROPPED INTO FRAN'S APARTMENT THE NEXT MORNING---
HELLO? OH, JERRY! GOOD MORNING, DARLING!
FRAN, I'M AWFULLY SORRY, BUT I CAN'T KEEP OUR DATE FOR GOLF TODAY! I HAVE TO WORK ON SOME VERY IMPORTANT DRAWINGS.
OH--I SEE! WELL--WHAT ABOUT TONIGHT?
HEY, WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING SO GLUM ABOUT?
WELL--I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG THESE WILL TAKE! I'D BETTER CALL YOU LATER ON!
ALL RIGHT, JERRY! I'LL WAIT FOR YOUR CALL!
FRAN, WAIT A MINUTE--YOU DON'T THINK--
CALL ME LATER WILL HE! I MIGHT HAVE KNOWN--HE'S JUST LIKE ALL THE REST! SCARED TO DEATH OF A GIRL ATHLETE! WELL, I'LL SHOW THEM--I'LL SHOW THEM ALL!
NOW, WAIT A MINUTE! WAIT A MIN---! WAIT A MINUTE!
SLAM
BUT IT WAS HOPELESS---I COULDN'T MAKE HER HEAR ME! BOY, WAS SHE BOILING! I COULDN'T GET THROUGH TO HER AT ALL!
BUT LISTEN, HE MIGHT CHANGE HIS MIND! WAIT A FEW DAYS--AW, WHAT'S THE USE?
I'M LEAVING TOWN, THAT'S ALL! I'LL GO TO SOME OTHER CITY AND GET A JOB, WHERE NOBODY EVER HEARD OF ME! JERRY LIGHT INDEED! HMMMPH!
WELL, THERE WAS ONE THING I COULD DO! AT LEAST I COULD GIVE THAT IDIOT, JERRY, A PIECE OF MY MIND! HE WAS AS BAD AS THE REST OF THEM, AND --BUT WHEN I GOT THERE, HE WAS WORKING--JUST LIKE HE SAID HE WAS!
WELL, WHAT DO YOU KNOW? SAY, WHAT GOES ON ANYWAY?
AND THEN I SPOTTED SOMETHING THAT SURPRISED ME LIKE NOTHING EVER DID BEFORE!
AWWRR! NO WONDER! OH, BROTHER! THIS FRAN HAS GOT TO SEE!
5

BUT WHEN I GOT BACK TO HER PLACE, IT LOOKED LIKE THE JIG WAS UP! FRAN WAS LEAVING ALL RIGHT--AND RIGHT AWAY! I KNEW I'D NEVER STAND A CHANCE TO GET ACROSS WHAT I KNEW IN ALL THAT CONFUSION!
--THAT'S IT, TAKE THEM ALL. THANK YOU. NOW, WHAT ELSE DO I HAVE TO DO? IS THERE ANYTHING OR ANYONE IN THIS TOWN WHO MATTERS TO ME--?
AND THAT GAVE ME ONE MORE IDEA! NO KIDDING, I'M A HARD GUY TO BEAT, YOU KNOW!
FRAN! YOU CAN'T LEAVE WITHOUT SEEING BOBBIE! BOBBIE, FRAN--YOUR BEST FRIEND! YOU MUST STOP BY TO SEE BOBBIE!
OF COURSE THERE'S SOMEONE WHO MATTERS! I COULDN'T POSSIBLY LEAVE WITHOUT SEEING BOBBIE!
WELL, FRAN MARCHED RIGHT OVER AND INTO THE ELEVATOR IN THAT APARTMENT HOUSE--AND THEN SHE HESITATED. AND RIGHT THERE I GOT MY FINAL AND BRIGHTEST IDEA!
NOW, LET'S SEE! IS BOBBIE IN 604 OR 605? SHE'S RIGHT NEXT DOOR TO JERRY--AND I CERTAINLY DON'T WANT TO SEE HIM!
OH, BROTHER! IF I CAN WORK THIS ONE, I'M HOUDINI!
IT'S 605, FRAN! SIX-OH-FIVE! SIX-HUNDRED-AND-FIVE! LISTEN! 6-0-5!
ISN'T THAT SILLY! NOW I'M NOT SURE--
6--O--5, FRAN! FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE, SIX OH FIVE!
OF ALL THE STUPID--! OH, NOW I REMEMBER! BOBBIE'S IN SIX OH FIVE!
604
605
THAT A GIRL! NOW--IT'S DO OR DIE IN THE NEXT MINUTE!
602
604
605
6

FRAN! THIS IS A PLEASANT SURPRISE! COME ON IN -- WHY, WHAT'S WRONG?
JER---! I--OH, I THOUGHT-- I MEAN--
GO ON IN! IMAGINE WHAT HE'LL THINK IF YOU SAY YOU RANG HIS BELL BY MISTAKE! YOU'LL LOOK LIKE AN IDIOT!
603
WELL, I'LL ONLY STAY A MINUTE. I-I KNOW YOU'RE WORKING!
ALMOST THOUGH! IN FACT-- WE CAN STILL MAKE THAT DATE TONIGHT!
TURN YOUR HEAD, STUPID! LOOK OVER THERE!
JERRY! ARE THOSE ALL YOURS? WHY--YOU'RE--YOU'RE A CHAMPION ATHLETE IN EVERYTHING!
WELL,--I GUESS I AM, FRAN! GEE, I'M SORRY YOU FOUND OUT I'VE BEEN COASTING WHEN I PLAYED AGAINST YOU! I-I WAS AFRAID YOU MIGHT BE HURT!
WHAT? BUT JERRY--THAT'S WHAT I'VE BEEN DOING TO YOU!
TA DA DA DA TA DAAAAHH! VICTORY IS ASSURED MEN!
YES, I WONDERED ABOUT THAT WHEN YOUR FRIENDS TOLD ME LAST NIGHT--BUT I WAS SO INTERESTED IN MY WORK--IT'S REALLY IMPORTANT TO ME--THAT I FORGOT TO ASK YOU ABOUT IT THIS MORNING ON THE PHONE!
HOLD ME CLOSE, JERRY-- I'M A TERRIBLE DOPE, BUT I LOVE YOU!
YOU ARE NOT-- YOU'RE WONDERFUL!
SEE? THAT'S THE WAY THINGS SHOULD COME OUT-- THOUGH THEY DON'T EVERY TIME! ANYBODY CAN MAKE MISTAKES--EVEN ME -- DAN CUPID! SEE YOU AGAIN, FOLKS!
THE END

AND THE STARS FELL DOWN

A BUZZ on the front doorbell.

"It's about time," Helen Hunt murmured, as she rose to admit her caller. "I wonder what his alibi is this time."

But if she expected an alibi she was doomed to disappointment. A young man dressed for a night of revelry bounded into the apartment with a very cheery:

"Good evening, my sweet."

Helen eyed him with mock coldness.

"You're late, Bobby."

"So what?" was the happy reply. "I come on the wings of love."

The girl was forced to smile in spite of herself.

"Highball, Darling?"

The tall, slender young gent, with his tuxedo loosely slung about his frame, and his mass of curly hair cutting freakish capers on his well-shaped head, slumped in front of the fireplace like a contented cat. He decorated his handsome features with a very foolish grin.

"Need you ask?" he remarked.

And had he been of the aforementioned feline species he most certainly would have purred. Comfort such as this he never knew at home.

"Double strength, my sweet," he added, as Helen walked into her very spacious kitchen. "This is a night to be drunk."

He stretched his long legs to full length on the floor.

"Drunk with ten-year-old Scotch," he continued. "And drunk with love, which knows no age."

The golden-haired creature who answered to the name of Helen Hunt glided from the kitchen with a glass of refreshment in each lovely hand. The young man accepted his and raised the delicious concoction to his anxious lips.

"To a night of stars," he said. "And a moon that even shines through the ceiling."

Helen sat beside him, dangerously close. The perfume she used was even more intoxicating than the glorious smoothness of fine old Scotch.

"It's too perfect to end, isn't it, Bobby?" she said.

"There is no end to a night like this," Bobby replied. "There is only intermission."

Helen rose to her feet and walked slowly to the huge French windows. They offered a dream-like view of the magical lights of lower Manhattan and the Jersey shore.

"Wouldn't some lovely roof garden be a perfect paradise tonight?" she murmured.

"So would the Albany Night Boat," was Bobby's laughing reply.

But Helen was too absorbed in the star-studded ceiling of sky to pay any attention to this remark. She allowed a weary little sigh to escape her lips. Then she became aware of Bobby's nearness as he pressed his lips to her soft hair.

"Sweetheart," he whispered, "I don't like to spoil your dreams, but where shall we go tonight?"

"Any nice place," Helen replied. "On top of the world, if possible."

Bobby finished his highball and took Helen's empty glass from her hand. She turned and smiled at him.

"Do you think I need another one?" she asked.

"If you think you can take it," Bobby answered.

As he started toward the kitchen Helen called him back.

"Not now, Bobby," she said. "Let's wait a few minutes."

Bobby winked at her.

"I thought you were in a hurry to get out?"

"Isn't it a little early?"

He looked at his watch.

"Right you are," he said. "It's only a little after eight."

He set the two glasses on a table and returned to where Helen was standing.

"Look, honey," he said, as he put both hands on her shoulders. "If you think tonight is so grand, why not make it just about perfect by setting the date for our wedding. Then we could have a REAL celebration."

Helen's lovely eyes sparkled with a smile.

"I always wanted to be a June bride," she said. "And June is next month."

Bobby looked at her in speechless astonishment. His mouth was wide open, but it took several seconds before any words came forth.

"Wow!" he cried. "What a night this is going to be!"

The next few seconds were spent in sweet embrace. But when he released her he moved across the room with slow, methodical strides. A queer expression came into Helen's eyes for an instant. She followed him and rested one hand on his arm.

"Bobby," she asked, "how long have you been in love with me?"

He crossed in front of her and walked to the fireplace. He rested an elbow on the mantelpiece.

"All my life," he murmured.

"But you've only known me two years."

He turned his head slightly and passed one hand through his wavy hair.

"I've loved you all my life," he repeated. "Before I ever met you I always dreamed that there was a girl just like you—somewhere in this world. I knew I'd meet her some day—and I knew I'd fall in love with her."

Helen looked at him. She scarcely knew whether to smile or allow a tear to fall over her pretty cheeks.

"That's a lovely way of saying it," she confessed. "I hope you didn't read it from a book."

He grinned and tugged at the lobe of his right ear.

"Books are not for me," he said. "Not love stories, at any rate. I'm an adventurer at heart. I want the blood and thunder of the Spanish Main. That's for me. You read the love stories, Helen. I'll make up my own."

* * * * *

She sensed she had said the wrong thing. Her last thought was to injure this boy's delicate pride. And it *was* delicate. Of that she was convinced.

"I'm sorry, Bobby," she apologized. "That was a very poor sample of a joke."

He contrived to get an injured look on his face. A little sympathy sometimes goes a long way.

"No harm done," he said.

He took her by the shoulders and looked directly into her eyes.

"Remember this," he continued: "I've always been very sincere in what I've said to you. Maybe I say it a little different from the average fellow—but I mean it. Every word of it. You'll never hear any fancy talk from me. It's just plain love talk."

She reassured him with one of her very special smiles. He tossed his head back in that devil-may-care attitude she so adored. Again his slender fingers went through the wavy hair.

"Sometimes I wonder," he said, "if you don't think that I'm putting on an act. Believe me, Helen, I'm a very bad actor. The stage is not for me. And this parlor of yours is no stage."

Helen shook her head. She was so certain she had wounded his feelings. And such tender feelings they were. Too bad her Bobby was not just a little more hard-boiled.

"No—no," she said. "I wasn't making fun of you, Bobby. It's just that you're so different from anyone I have ever known. Sometimes I don't know just what to say."

Again his fingers went through his hair. He tugged at the lobe of his ear. She felt like screaming.

"For heaven's sake, stop it. There's nothing the matter with you."

But no, that would never do. She patted his hand—this was her own private brand of feminine affection.

"Shall we go out, Bobby?" she asked. "The night is young and there will be lots to do. We'll have a party in honor of June."

"Who is she?" he asked absentmindedly. And then: "Oh, yes—sure—to June and orange blossoms in the church."

He raised his right hand to his brow in imitation of a military salute.

"Duchess," he said, "the pleasure is yours. I'll put a bracelet of stars around your pretty wrist."

She laughed heartily.

"Half the pleasure is yours," she replied. "We share and share alike. Remember?"

Again he passed in front of her and walked to the other side of the room. He paused in front of a mirror and clumsily attempted to adjust his tie, which was in perfect order. Helen took a step backward. Her legs were wide apart. One clenched fist rested on each hip. Her pretty face ablaze with anger and scorn.

"LISTEN, YOU BIG APE," SHE ROARED. "STOP HOGGIN' THE CAMERA."

Her partner spun around.

"Why, for two cents — I'd —"

"Cut!"

* * * * *

This bellowing command came from the gentleman in shirt sleeves. He stepped onto the brilliantly lighted set and slammed his battered hat onto the floor.

"WHY DON'T YOU TWO HAMS BEHAVE?" HE SHOUTED.

And the stars fell down. The two sensitive creatures fainted.

"PRINT IT."

And the scene was completed.

"Clear away that garbage!" roared the director. "We've got another scene to shoot on this set."

Bobby sat bolt upright.

"Garbage?" he repeated. "Could he mean us?"

"Speak for yourself, wise guy," growled Helen. "I have no time to worry about what he says. I've got a date at the beauty parlor."

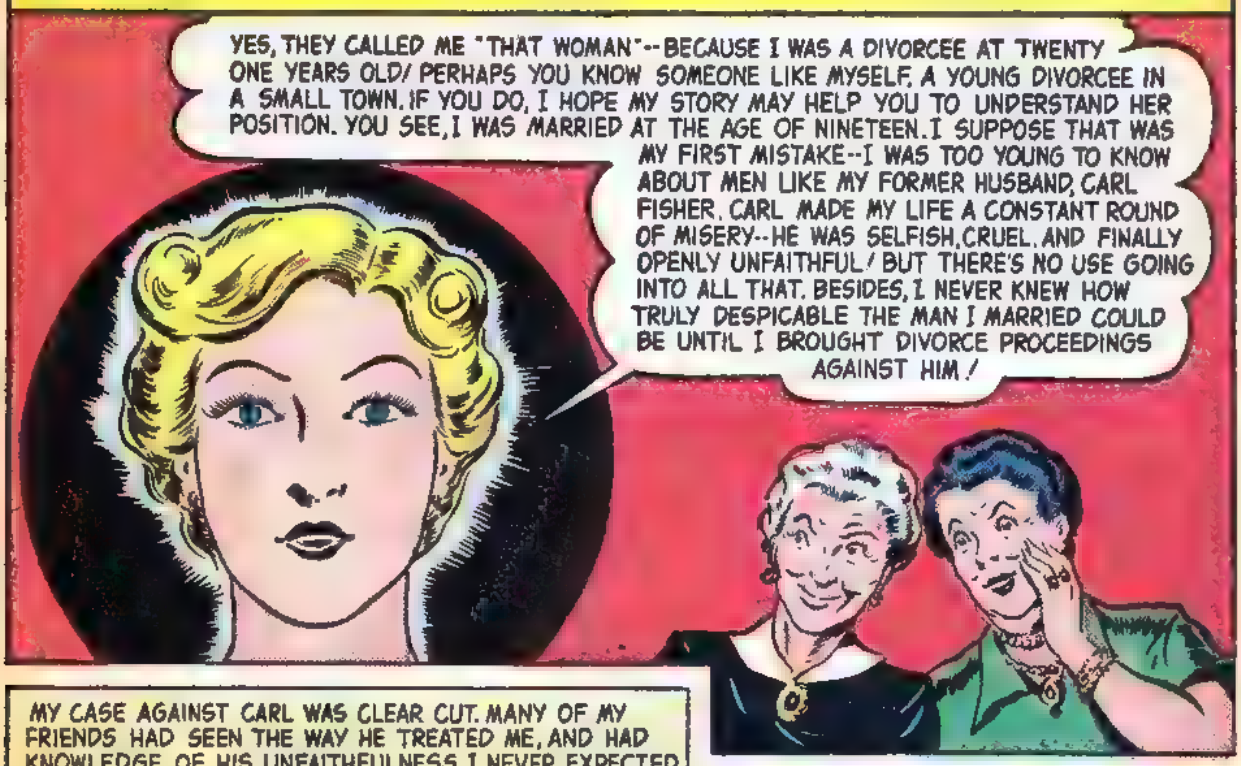
Bobby sneered at her.

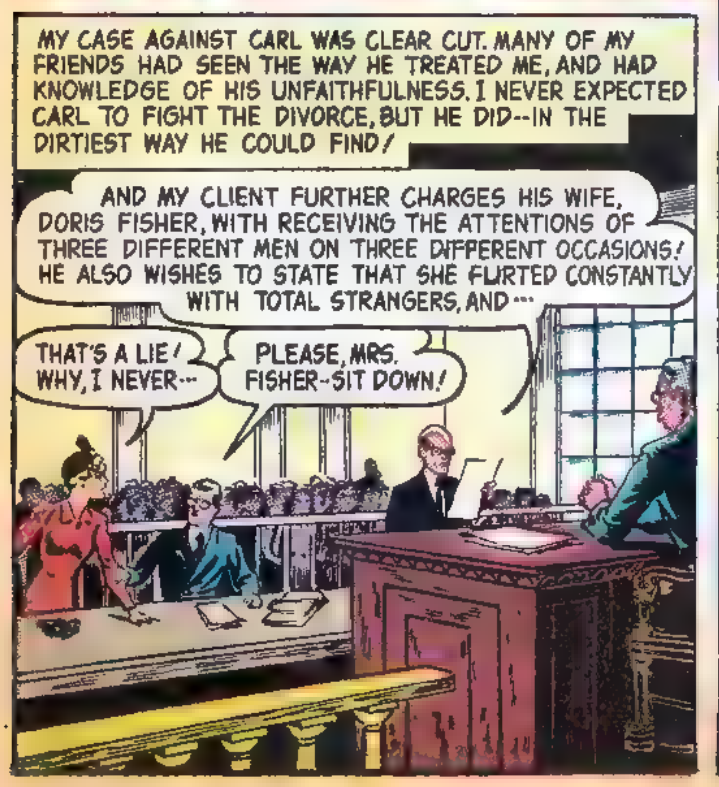
"Do tell, dearie?" he remarked. "When you get your face lifted this time, tell her to do a better job. The old one keeps sliding back."

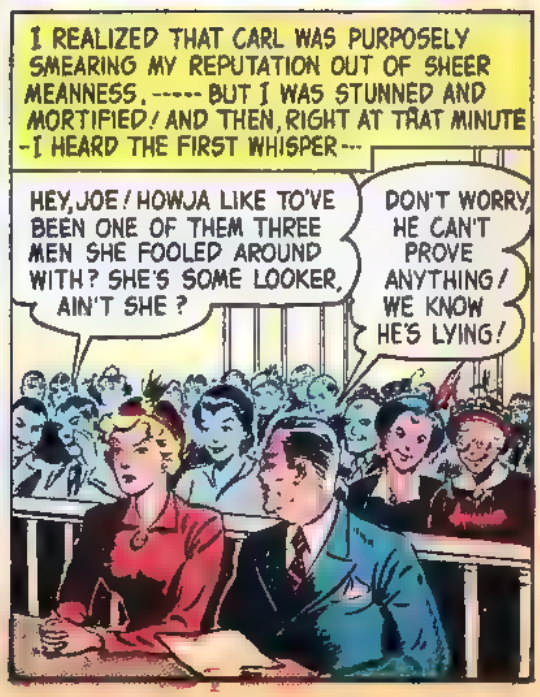
At least one of the stars fell down again. A very conveniently placed flower vase landed on Bobby's head. Helen Hunt dusted her hands and stalked off the set.

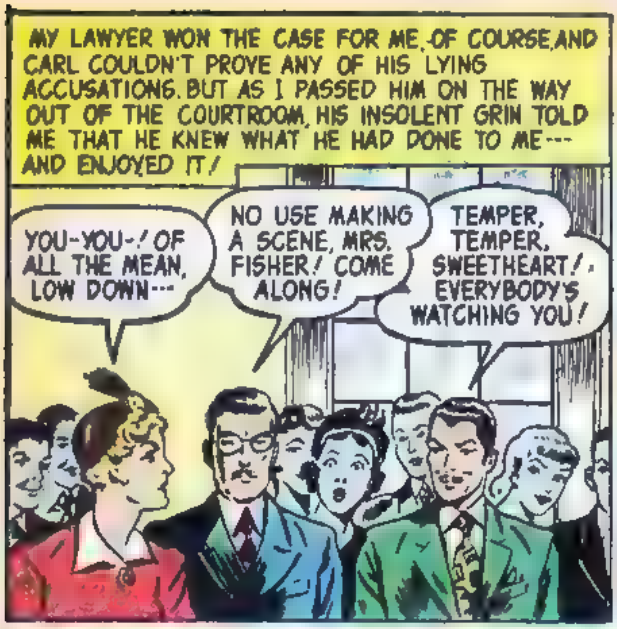
THE END

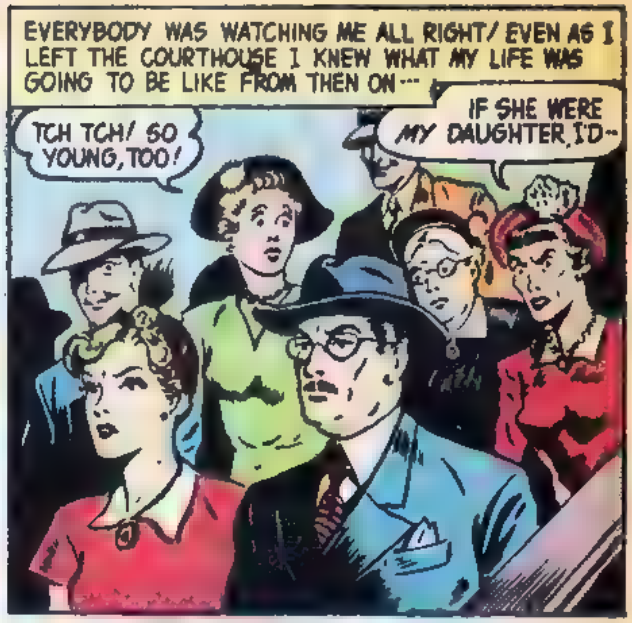
they called me "THAT woman"!

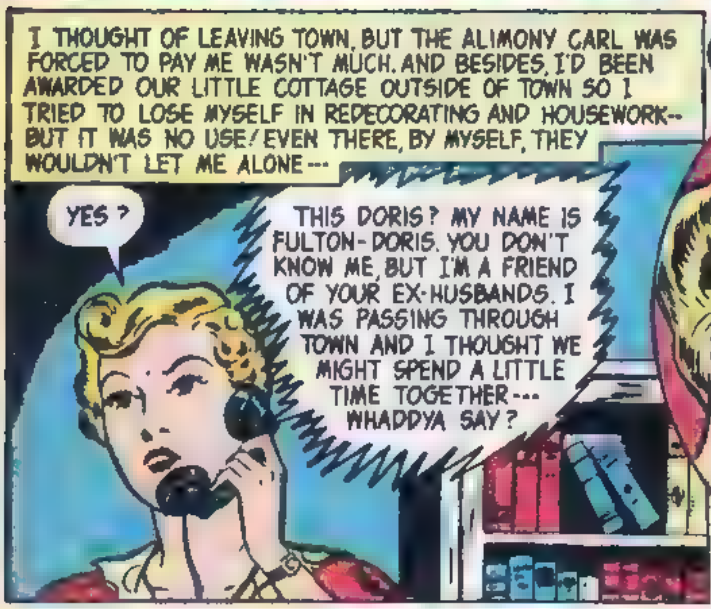

YES, THEY CALLED ME "THAT WOMAN"--BECAUSE I WAS A DIVORCEE AT TWENTY ONE YEARS OLD/ PERHAPS YOU KNOW SOMEONE LIKE MYSELF, A YOUNG DIVORCEE IN A SMALL TOWN. IF YOU DO, I HOPE MY STORY MAY HELP YOU TO UNDERSTAND HER POSITION. YOU SEE, I WAS MARRIED AT THE AGE OF NINETEEN. I SUPPOSE THAT WAS MY FIRST MISTAKE--I WAS TOO YOUNG TO KNOW ABOUT MEN LIKE MY FORMER HUSBAND, CARL FISHER. CARL MADE MY LIFE A CONSTANT ROUND OF MISERY--HE WAS SELFISH, CRUEL, AND FINALLY OPENLY UNFAITHFUL/ BUT THERE'S NO USE GOING INTO ALL THAT. BESIDES, I NEVER KNEW HOW TRULY DESPICABLE THE MAN I MARRIED COULD BE UNTIL I BROUGHT DIVORCE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST HIM/

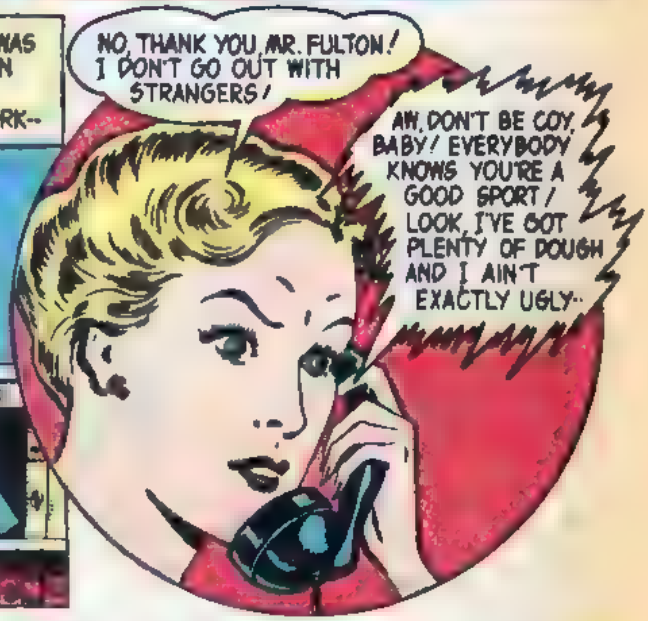

MY CASE AGAINST CARL WAS CLEAR CUT. MANY OF MY FRIENDS HAD SEEN THE WAY HE TREATED ME, AND HAD KNOWLEDGE OF HIS UNFAITHFULNESS. I NEVER EXPECTED CARL TO FIGHT THE DIVORCE, BUT HE DID--IN THE DIRTIEST WAY HE COULD FIND/
AND MY CLIENT FURTHER CHARGES HIS WIFE, DORIS FISHER, WITH RECEIVING THE ATTENTIONS OF THREE DIFFERENT MEN ON THREE DIFFERENT OCCASIONS/ HE ALSO WISHES TO STATE THAT SHE FLIRTED CONSTANTLY WITH TOTAL STRANGERS, AND---
THAT'S A LIE/ WHY, I NEVER--
PLEASE, MRS. FISHER--SIT DOWN/


I REALIZED THAT CARL WAS PURPOSELY SMEARING MY REPUTATION OUT OF SHEER MEANNESS, ----- BUT I WAS STUNNED AND MORTIFIED/ AND THEN, RIGHT AT THAT MINUTE --I HEARD THE FIRST WHISPER---
HEY, JOE/ HOWJA LIKE TO'VE BEEN ONE OF THEM THREE MEN SHE FOOLED AROUND WITH? SHE'S SOME LOOKER, AIN'T SHE?
DON'T WORRY, HE CAN'T PROVE ANYTHING/ WE KNOW HE'S LYING/


MY LAWYER WON THE CASE FOR ME, OF COURSE, AND CARL COULDN'T PROVE ANY OF HIS LYING ACCUSATIONS. BUT AS I PASSED HIM ON THE WAY OUT OF THE COURTROOM, HIS INSOLENT GRIN TOLD ME THAT HE KNEW WHAT HE HAD DONE TO ME--- AND ENJOYED IT!
YOU--YOU-! OF ALL THE MEAN, LOW DOWN---
NO USE MAKING A SCENE, MRS. FISHER! COME ALONG!
TEMPER, TEMPER, SWEETHEART! EVERYBODY'S WATCHING YOU!

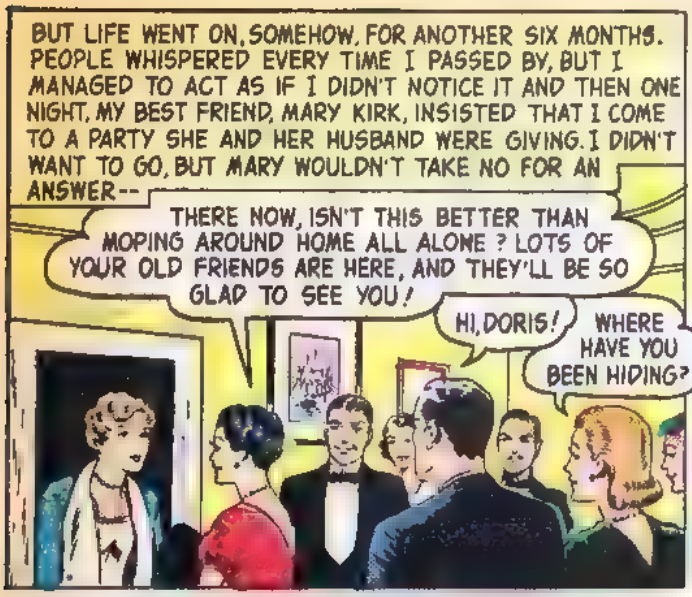

EVERYBODY WAS WATCHING ME ALL RIGHT! EVEN AS I LEFT THE COURTHOUSE I KNEW WHAT MY LIFE WAS GOING TO BE LIKE FROM THEN ON---
TCH TCH! SO YOUNG, TOO!
IF SHE WERE MY DAUGHTER, I'D--


I THOUGHT OF LEAVING TOWN, BUT THE ALIMONY CARL WAS FORCED TO PAY ME WASN'T MUCH. AND BESIDES, I'D BEEN AWARDED OUR LITTLE COTTAGE OUTSIDE OF TOWN SO I TRIED TO LOSE MYSELF IN REDECORATING AND HOUSEWORK-- BUT IT WAS NO USE! EVEN THERE, BY MYSELF, THEY WOULDN'T LET ME ALONE---
YES?
THIS DORIS? MY NAME IS FULTON-DORIS. YOU DON'T KNOW ME, BUT I'M A FRIEND OF YOUR EX-HUSBANDS. I WAS PASSING THROUGH TOWN AND I THOUGHT WE MIGHT SPEND A LITTLE TIME TOGETHER--- WHADDYA SAY?


NO, THANK YOU, MR. FULTON! I DON'T GO OUT WITH STRANGERS!
AW, DON'T BE COY, BABY! EVERYBODY KNOWS YOU'RE A GOOD SPORT! LOOK, I'VE GOT PLENTY OF DOUGH AND I AIN'T EXACTLY UGLY--

OF ALL THE INSULTING, EVIL MINDED--I HAVE A GOOD MIND TO CALL THE POLICE AND HAVE THEM--OH, WHAT'S THE USE? THEY'D PROBABLY LAUGH AT ME!

WHAT AM I GOING TO DO? I CAN'T GO ON LIKE THIS, BEING INSULTED AND LAUGHED AT EVERY DAY OF MY LIFE! I'M ONLY TWENTY ONE--I'M YOUNG! THIS IS JUST THE TIME I SHOULD BE THE HAPPIEST, AND YET IT'S JUST AS IF MY LIFE WERE ALREADY OVER! I-I MIGHT AS WELL BE DEAD!


BUT LIFE WENT ON, SOMEHOW, FOR ANOTHER SIX MONTHS. PEOPLE WHISPERED EVERY TIME I PASSED BY, BUT I MANAGED TO ACT AS IF I DIDN'T NOTICE IT AND THEN ONE NIGHT, MY BEST FRIEND, MARY KIRK, INSISTED THAT I COME TO A PARTY SHE AND HER HUSBAND WERE GIVING. I DIDN'T WANT TO GO, BUT MARY WOULDN'T TAKE NO FOR AN ANSWER--
THERE NOW, ISN'T THIS BETTER THAN MOPING AROUND HOME ALL ALONE? LOTS OF YOUR OLD FRIENDS ARE HERE, AND THEY'LL BE SO GLAD TO SEE YOU!
HI, DORIS!
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN HIDING?

FOR AWHILE, I LET MYSELF HOPE THAT THINGS WERE CHANGING AT LAST/ THESE WERE MY OWN FRIENDS, AND THEY WERE TREATING ME AS IF NOTHING HAD EVER HAPPENED/ I WONDERED IF I'D BEEN WRONG TO HIDE AWAY ALL THOSE MONTHS--AND THEN FRANK KIRK, MARY'S OWN HUSBAND, BROKE THE SPELL---
DORIS, COME ON OUT ON THE TERRACE--I HAVE TO TALK TO YOU!
MY GOODNESS, FRANK--WHAT'S ALL THE MYSTERY?

DORIS, I'VE BEEN WAITING TO SEE YOU/ I WAS SO GLAD WHEN MARY ASKED YOU TO COME TONIGHT/ DON'T YOU REALIZE THAT I'VE ALWAYS BEEN CRAZY ABOUT YOU? AND NOW THAT YOU'RE FREE AND LIVING ALL ALONE
FRANK/ DON'T BE AN IDIOT/ GOOD HEAVENS, EVEN YOU!

DON'T PLAY DUMB, DORIS/ AFTER ALL, WHY NOT ME INSTEAD OF SOMEONE ELSE---
HEY, FRANK/ MARY WANTS YOU TO COME OUT TO THE KITCHEN/
STOP IT, FRANK/ PLEASE LEAVE ME ALONE/

OH/ DIDN'T SEE YOU, GEORGE/ GEORGE, MEET DORIS MALONE--GEORGE HALL. DON'T BELIEVE YOU TWO'VE MET. WELL; EXCUSE ME--GOTTA GO--
GOOD-EVENING, MR HALL/
HOW DO YOU DO?

I-I REALIZE YOU INTERRUPTED US--TO HELP ME OUT OF AN AWKWARD SITUATION, MR. HALL/ I-I APPRECIATE IT VERY MUCH/
NO TROUBLE, MISS MALONE. I JUST WANT TO SAY THAT I KNOW WHAT A DIFFICULT PERIOD OF TIME YOU'RE IN, AND--AND I DON'T BELIEVE WHAT ANYONE SAYS ABOUT YOU/ NOW, I'LL LEAVE YOU ALONE, IF YOU WANT ME TO/

THAT-ISN'T NECESSARY, MR HALL/ SHALL WE GO BACK INSIDE?
OF COURSE/ LET'S TRY SOME OF THOSE SANDWICHES/
OH, I KNEW WHAT MARY'S GUESTS WERE THINKING--AND SAYING/ "LOOK--THAT WOMAN IS CERTAINLY A FAST WORKER/" BUT I DIDN'T CARE. SOMETHING TOLD ME THAT AT LAST I'D FOUND A REAL FRIEND.

WELL, TO MAKE A LONG STORY SHORT--GEORGE AND I FELL IN LOVE / AND OH HOW DIFFERENT IT WAS TO LOVE A MAN WHO WAS KIND, CONSIDERATE AND SWEET / I LOVED HIM WITH ALL THE PENT-UP LONGING I HAD NEVER BEEN ABLE TO GIVE CARL, AND LIFE WAS SUNNY AND WARM ONCE AGAIN / OF COURSE, MY TROUBLES WERE FAR FROM OVER EVERY TIME I WAS SEEN WITH GEORGE, IT WAS FOOD FOR FRESH GOSSIP---

OH, LET'S NOT GO TO THE BEACH, GEORGE / IT WILL BE SO CROWED AND--

LOOK, DORIS--I KNOW WHY YOU DON'T WANT TO GO TO THE BEACH. YOU'RE AFRAID OF THE GOSSIPS / BUT WE'RE JUST TWO NORMAL PEOPLE WHO WANT TO GO SWIMMING, DARLING--AND IT'S NOBODY'S BUSINESS BUT OURS / YOU'VE GOT TO GET OVER YOUR SHYNESS /

GEORGE, YOU KNOW SOMETHING ? I THINK I *AM* OVER IT / LOOK AT THAT BUNCH OF HARPIES OVER THERE TEARING US APART--AND I DON'T CARE EVEN ONE LITTLE BIT /

THAT'S THE GIRL / JUST IGNORE THEM ALL /

THERE WERE SOME TERRIBLY EMBARRASSING MOMENTS, OF COURSE, BUT I MANAGED TO IGNORE THOSE TOO FINALLY, ONE NIGHT AT THE COUNTRY CLUB

HEY HALL I ALWAYS WANTED TO ASK YOU SOMETHING / WERE YOU ONE OF THE THREE GUYS THAT FISHER NAMED IN HIS DIVORCE CASE ? WERE YOU ?

MIKE / SHUT UP, MIKE /

WHY, YOU--

THAT OUGHT TO CLOSE YOUR DIRTY MOUTH FOR YOU / GET HIM OUT OF HERE, FELLOWS, BEFORE I BREAK HIM IN TWO / DORIS, WAIT IN THE CAR, PLEASE /

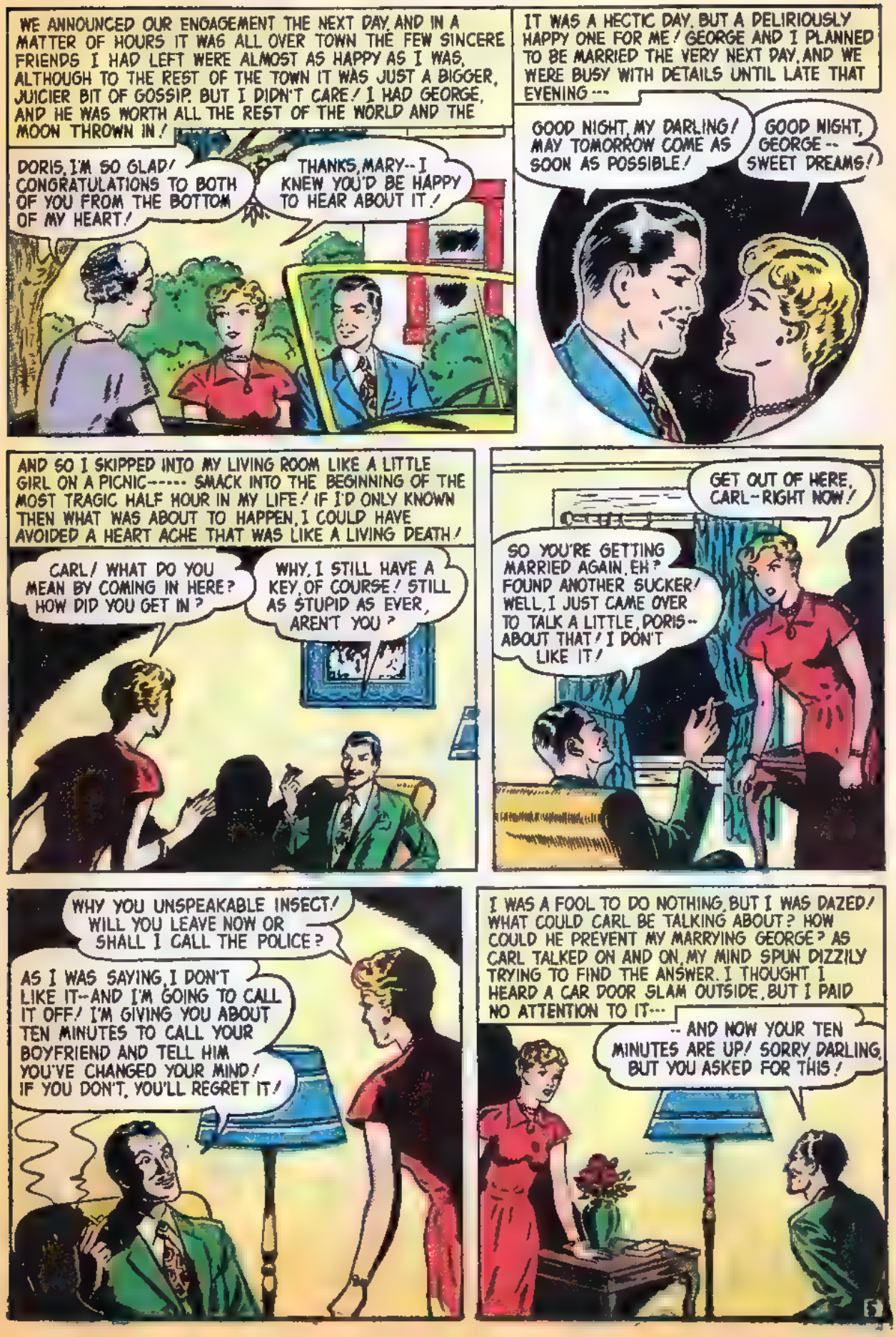
YES GEORGE / BUT PLEASE HURRY /

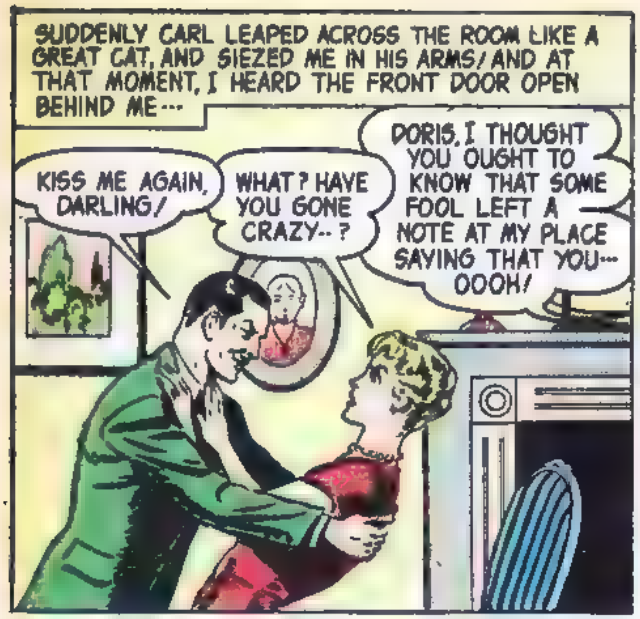
WE'LL TAKE CARE OF HIM, HALL / COME ON, MIKE /

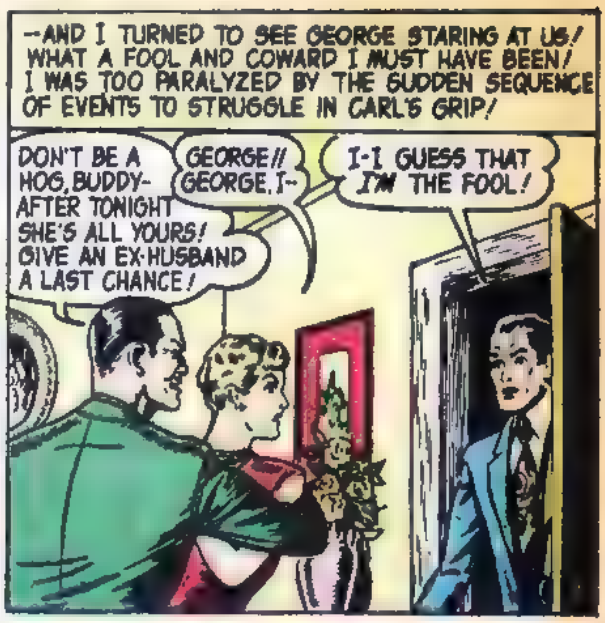
AND THEN, A MOMENT LATER---

DORIS, I MEANT TO WAIT A LITTLE LONGER--I DIDN'T WANT TO RUSH YOU / BUT WITH THIS SORT OF THING GOING ON, I--DORIS, I LOVE YOU WITH ALL MY HEART / WILL YOU MARRY ME ?

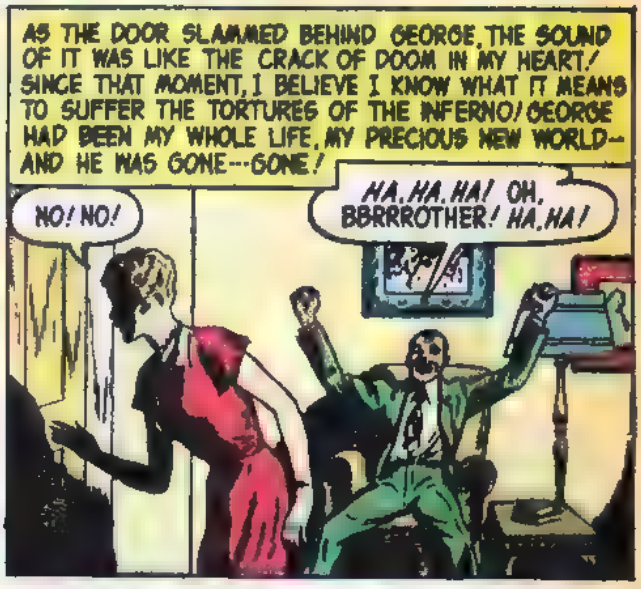
OH, GEORGE, GEORGE, OF COURSE I WILL / I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU TO ASK ME / AND TO THINK IT TOOK A FOOL LIKE THAT MAN AT THE BAR TO BRING ON YOUR PROPOSAL / OH, DARLING, I'M SO HAPPY I'M LAUGHING AND CRYING AT THE SAME TIME /

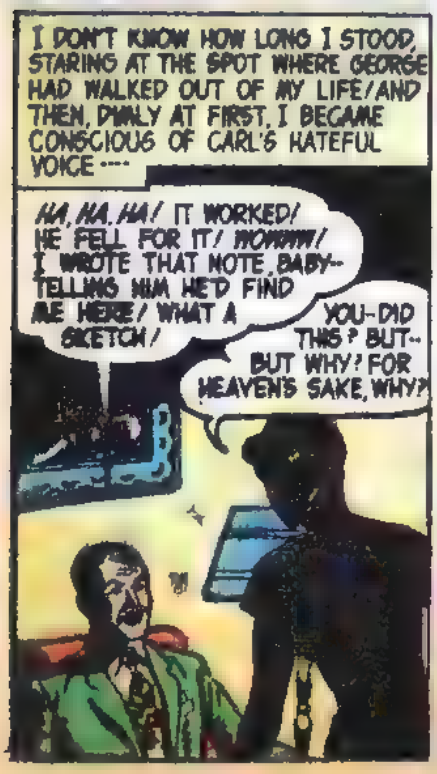

WE ANNOUNCED OUR ENGAGEMENT THE NEXT DAY, AND IN A MATTER OF HOURS IT WAS ALL OVER TOWN THE FEW SINCERE FRIENDS I HAD LEFT WERE ALMOST AS HAPPY AS I WAS, ALTHOUGH TO THE REST OF THE TOWN IT WAS JUST A BIGGER, JUICIER BIT OF GOSSIP. BUT I DIDN'T CARE! I HAD GEORGE, AND HE WAS WORTH ALL THE REST OF THE WORLD AND THE MOON THROWN IN!
DORIS, I'M SO GLAD! CONGRATULATIONS TO BOTH OF YOU FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART!
THANKS, MARY--I KNEW YOU'D BE HAPPY TO HEAR ABOUT IT!
IT WAS A HECTIC DAY, BUT A DELIRIOUSLY HAPPY ONE FOR ME! GEORGE AND I PLANNED TO BE MARRIED THE VERY NEXT DAY, AND WE WERE BUSY WITH DETAILS UNTIL LATE THAT EVENING---
GOOD NIGHT, MY DARLING! MAY TOMORROW COME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!
GOOD NIGHT, GEORGE -- SWEET DREAMS!
AND SO I SKIPPED INTO MY LIVING ROOM LIKE A LITTLE GIRL ON A PICNIC----- SMACK INTO THE BEGINNING OF THE MOST TRAGIC HALF HOUR IN MY LIFE! IF I'D ONLY KNOWN THEN WHAT WAS ABOUT TO HAPPEN, I COULD HAVE AVOIDED A HEART ACHE THAT WAS LIKE A LIVING DEATH!
CARL! WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY COMING IN HERE? HOW DID YOU GET IN?
WHY, I STILL HAVE A KEY, OF COURSE! STILL AS STUPID AS EVER, AREN'T YOU?
GET OUT OF HERE, CARL--RIGHT NOW!
SO YOU'RE GETTING MARRIED AGAIN, EH? FOUND ANOTHER SUCKER! WELL, I JUST CAME OVER TO TALK A LITTLE, DORIS-- ABOUT THAT! I DON'T LIKE IT!
WHY YOU UNSPEAKABLE INSECT! WILL YOU LEAVE NOW OR SHALL I CALL THE POLICE?
AS I WAS SAYING, I DON'T LIKE IT--AND I'M GOING TO CALL IT OFF! I'M GIVING YOU ABOUT TEN MINUTES TO CALL YOUR BOYFRIEND AND TELL HIM YOU'VE CHANGED YOUR MIND! IF YOU DON'T, YOU'LL REGRET IT!
I WAS A FOOL TO DO NOTHING, BUT I WAS DAZED! WHAT COULD CARL BE TALKING ABOUT? HOW COULD HE PREVENT MY MARRYING GEORGE? AS CARL TALKED ON AND ON, MY MIND SPUN DIZZILY TRYING TO FIND THE ANSWER. I THOUGHT I HEARD A CAR DOOR SLAM OUTSIDE, BUT I PAID NO ATTENTION TO IT---
-- AND NOW YOUR TEN MINUTES ARE UP! SORRY DARLING, BUT YOU ASKED FOR THIS!


SUDDENLY CARL LEAPED ACROSS THE ROOM LIKE A GREAT CAT, AND SIEZED ME IN HIS ARMS/ AND AT THAT MOMENT, I HEARD THE FRONT DOOR OPEN BEHIND ME---
KISS ME AGAIN, DARLING/
WHAT? HAVE YOU GONE CRAZY--?
DORIS, I THOUGHT YOU OUGHT TO KNOW THAT SOME FOOL LEFT A NOTE AT MY PLACE SAYING THAT YOU--- OOOH/


--AND I TURNED TO SEE GEORGE STARING AT US/ WHAT A FOOL AND COWARD I MUST HAVE BEEN/ I WAS TOO PARALYZED BY THE SUDDEN SEQUENCE OF EVENTS TO STRUGGLE IN CARL'S GRIP/
DON'T BE A HOG, BUDDY- AFTER TONIGHT SHE'S ALL YOURS/ GIVE AN EX-HUSBAND A LAST CHANCE/
GEORGE!! GEORGE, I--
I-I GUESS THAT I'M THE FOOL/

I'M SORRY, DORIS-- FOR YOU/ I'M AFRAID YOU'LL NEVER CHANGE/ GOOD-BYE/
GEORGE/ GEORGE, COME BACK/ THIS IS ALL WRONG/


AS THE DOOR SLAMMED BEHIND GEORGE, THE SOUND OF IT WAS LIKE THE CRACK OF DOOM IN MY HEART/ SINCE THAT MOMENT, I BELIEVE I KNOW WHAT IT MEANS TO SUFFER THE TORTURES OF THE INFERNO/ GEORGE HAD BEEN MY WHOLE LIFE, MY PRECIOUS NEW WORLD-- AND HE WAS GONE---GONE/
NO! NO!
HA, HA, HA/ OH, BBRRROTHER/ HA, HA/


I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG I STOOD, STARING AT THE SPOT WHERE GEORGE HAD WALKED OUT OF MY LIFE/ AND THEN, DIMLY AT FIRST, I BECAME CONSCIOUS OF CARL'S HATEFUL VOICE ----
HA, HA, HA/ IT WORKED/ HE FELL FOR IT/ HOWWW/ I WROTE THAT NOTE, BABY-- TELLING HIM HE'D FIND ME HERE/ WHAT A SKETCH/
YOU-DID THIS? BUT--
BUT WHY? FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE, WHY?

WHY, HONEY/ YOU KNOW HOW I FEEL ABOUT YOU/ IF I CAN'T HAVE YOU-THEN NOBODY ELSE CAN/ HA, HA, HA/ DID YOU SEE HIS FACE WHEN HE OPENED THAT DOOR/
YOU-FILTHY-HATEFUL-- SADISTIC BEAST/

AND AT THAT MOMENT, AS CARL'S CRUEL LAUGHTER RANG IN MY EARS, FOR THE ONE AND ONLY TIME IN MY LIFE, I FELT THE URGE TO KILL--
HEY/ TAKE IT EASY, BABY, OR PAPA WILL HAVE TO SPANK/

WANT TO PLAY ROUGH, HUH? ALL RIGHT, I CAN BE ROUGH TOO---
YOU FIEND! YOU SWINE!
CAN YOU FISHER?
SUPPOSE YOU TRY GETTING ROUGH WITH ME, MISTER!
GEORGE! YOU-CAME BACK!
HEY, NOW WAIT A MINUTE! IT WAS ALL A JOKE---
ALL FOR LAUGHS, EH? WELL, LAUGH THIS OFF!
UGH! DON'T!
PLEASE! DON'T HIT ME! I'M GOING!
AND NOW YOU'RE GONE!
UGGGGGHH!
HE WON'T BOTHER YOU AGAIN! DORIS, CAN YOU EVER FORGIVE ME FOR NOT TRUSTING YOU? IT WAS THE SHOCK--I WAS SO SURPRISED--BUT AS SOON AS I GOT OUTSIDE I KNEW YOU COULDN'T DO SUCH A THING, SO I CAME BACK AND HEARD EVERYTHING HE SAID!
FORGIVE YOU! GEORGE--OH, DARLING I WAS SURE I'D LOST YOU!
YOU CAN'T LOSE ME, SWEETHEART--FROM NOW ON I'LL BE CLOSER THAN YOUR SHADOW!
THAT--WON'T BE CLOSE ENOUGH, MY LOVE! COULDN'T YOU DO EVEN BETTER?
THE END

CARTER'S CASE BOOK

THIS IS CATHERINE CARTER, EDITOR OF A NATION WIDE ADVICE TO THE LOVELORN COLUMN. CONSCIENTIOUS TO HER JOB, MISS CARTER IS HARD PRESSED TO SELECT AND ANSWER THE MOST DESPERATE APPEALS FOR HELP FROM AMONG THE THOUSANDS OF LETTERS SHE RECEIVES. BUT OCCASIONALLY, ONE CRY OF DISTRESS SO TOUCHES HER WARM HEART THAT SHE CANNOT RESIST TAKING A PERSONAL INTEREST IN THE CASE. THIS IS THE STORY OF **CASE # 375.**

CASE # 375 IS A HEART BREAKING EXAMPLE OF ONE OF SOCIETY'S MOST DIFFICULT PROBLEMS ---THE READJUSTMENT OF A CONVICTED CRIMINAL TO A NORMAL LIFE. I HOPE IT MAY OPEN YOUR EYES TO THE DESPERATE PLIGHT OF ALL SUCH UNFORTUNATES. I CALL THIS THE STORY OF **JANE DOE - FUGITIVE.** YES, JANE DOE MUST BE HER NAME, FOR I HAVE NO RIGHT TO EXPOSE HER TRUE NAME. THIS BITTER LETTER FROM JANE DOE FIRST AROUSED MY INTEREST IN THE CASE----

and so, although I have served my debt to society and am sincere in my determination to lead a decent, honest life, I have learned to my sorrow that my prison record denies me employment, forces me to lead the life of a frightened fugitive, and worst of all, has cost me the love of the only man I have ever cared for. I wonder if you dare print this in the face of public distaste for such unpleasant subjects---

POOR KID! INDEED I'LL PRINT YOUR STORY, JANE --- AND MORE THAN THAT, I'LL PERSONALLY SEE TO IT THAT YOU GET THE BREAK YOU NEED, OR MY NAME ISN'T CATHERINE CARTER!

LUCKY I MANAGED TO FIND TH,S PLACE AT ALL WHAT A TERRIBLE NEIGHBORHOOD! WELL, WITH A LITTLE LUCK SHE'LL BE OUT OF HERE IN NO TIME.
YES? WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?
IT SHOULD BE THE OTHER WAY AROUND, JANE -- I'VE COME TO DO SOMETHING FOR YOU I'M CATHARINE CARTER!
CATHARINE CARTER! BUT-- I NEVER THOUGHT-- WHY SHOULD YOU COME HERE?
BECAUSE I BELIEVE I CAN HELP YOU, JANE. NOW LETS NOT WASTE A LOT OF TIME. TELL ME ALL ABOUT YOURSELF.
I--I APPRECIATE YOUR COMING, MISS CARTER-- BUT-- BUT THERE'S NOTHING ANYONE CAN DO!
NONSENSE, JANE! IN THE FIRST PLACE, IF YOUR YOUNG MAN HAS LEFT YOU BECAUSE OF YOUR PRISON RECORD, HE ISN'T WORTH CRYING ABOUT SO---
OH, NO, MISS CARTER IT ISN'T ANYTHING LIKE THAT! WHY, KEN IS THE FINEST, SWEETEST-- YOU JUST DON'T UNDER-STAND!
OF COURSE I DON'T, JANE--BUT I'M SURE I WILL IF YOU'LL JUST TELL ME ALL ABOUT IT, YOU'LL FEEL BETTER IF YOU DO, DEAR--AND I'M A WONDERFUL LISTENER!
WELL-- IT'S JUST THAT I'M LOST, MISS CARTER--- I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO! I'VE BEEN OUT OF PRISON FOR TWO MONTHS NOW, AND I ALMOST WISH I COULD GO BACK! WHY, THE DAY I LEFT THERE I WAS THE HAPPIEST GIRL IN THE WORLD--
AFTER THREE YEARS INSIDE THOSE TERRIBLE WALLS, I WAS FREE AGAIN! FREE! ITS HARD TO TELL SOMEONE WHO HAS NEVER BEEN IN PRISON WHAT FREEDOM REALLY MEANS, MISS CARTER!
HELLO AGAIN, YOU GREAT BIG, BEAUTIFUL WORLD!
2

I DID A LOT OF THINKING ON THE TRAIN THAT BROUGHT ME BACK TO THE CITY. YOU SEE, I HAD BEEN FOOL ENOUGH TO FALL IN LOVE WITH A CROOK NAMED MICKEY CRANE WHEN I WAS ONLY EIGHTEEN, AND IT HAD BEEN A SCHEME OF HIS THAT PUT ME IN PRISON BUT MY MIND WAS MADE UP---
NO MORE PRISONS--NEVER AGAIN! AND NO MORE MICKEY CRANES OR CROOKED SCHEMES FOR ME! I MUST HAVE BEEN OUT OF MY MIND! I'LL FIND A JOB, AND MEET NEW FRIENDS--I'LL BE JUST LIKE ANY OTHER GIRL IN THE WORLD
WHAT A FOOL I WAS TO BELIEVE THAT! MY TROUBLES STARTED THE MOMENT I GOT OFF THE TRAIN---
HYA, BABY! LONG TIME NO SEE!
MICKEY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? HOW DID YOU KNOW?
OH, I GOT WAYS, HONEY---I KNEW YOU WAS GETTIN' OUT TODAY COME ON, I GOT THE CAR WAITIN' OUTSIDE!
NO, MICKEY! I'M NOT GOING WITH YOU! I'M THROUGH WITH YOU AND YOUR KIND, ONCE AND FOR ALL! SO GO AWAY AND LEAVE ME ALONE FROM NOW ON!
IS THAT NICE, SWEETIE? WHY, WE'RE GONNA HAVE A BIG BLOWOUT TO CELEBRATE YOUR GETTIN' SPRUNG! BESIDES, BABY---I GOT PLANS FOR YOU--SO COME ON ALONG!
LET GO OF ME, MICKEY! YOU'RE HURTING MY ARM!
ARE YOU HARD OF HEARING, FRIEND? THE LADY ASKED YOU TO LET GO!
WHAT TH-
WHY, YOU PUNK!
STICK YOUR NOSE IN MY BUSINESS, WILL YA? WELL, I'LL BREAK IT FOR YA!
OHHH! PLEASE GO AWAY, MISTER--HE'LL HURT YOU
NOT WITH A ROUND-HOUSE LIKE THAT, MISS---
3

--HE'S WIDE OPEN AS A BARN DOOR
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! HE'S DANGEROUS! HE PROBABLY HAS A GUN!
UGGHH
IN THAT CASE, WE'LL LEAVE WHILE HE'S TOO SLEEPY TO USE IT! MAY I SEE YOU HOME, MISS? YOU LOOK PRETTY SHAKEN UP BY ALL THIS! MY NAME IS KEN PARKER, BY THE WAY.
I-I-IT'S ALL SO CONFUSING! I DON'T HAVE A HOME--I MEAN, I JUST ARRIVED IN TOWN, AND--
WELL, SIR GALAHAD, THAT WAS A PRETTY EXHIBITION---
OH, HELLO SYLVIA! THIS IS MISS-- UH, MISS---
I'M JANE-- BROWN! HOW DO YOU DO?
JANE BROWN! MY WHAT AN INTERESTING NAME! WHY DON'T YOU STOP RESCUING EVERY PRETTY STRANGER YOU MEET, KEN! SOME DAY YOU'LL REGRET IT!
I DON'T KNOW WHY I GAVE A FALSE NAME, BUT SOMETHING ABOUT SYLVIA MADE ME WARY AND AFRAID. I DIDN'T WANT TO MAKE ANY MORE ENEMIES--I HAD TROUBLE ENOUGH ALREADY!
RELAX, SYLVIA! I JUST HAPPENED TO SEE MISS BROWN IN TROUBLE, THAT'S ALL!
I WISH I KNEW HOW TO THANK YOU, MR. PARKER-- YOU'VE BEEN WONDERFUL. BUT I'LL HAVE TO BE GOING NOW---
GOODBYE, MISS BROWN!
YES, YOU'LL HAVE TO EXCUSE US, SYLVIA! I PROMISED TO SEE MISS BROWN HOME. SO LONG FOR NOW!
BUT-- BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO-- I MEAN---
KEN! I WANTED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT--
YOU'RE IMPOSSIBLE, MR. PARKER! HOW CAN YOU LEAVE YOUR GIRL FRIEND STANDING THERE LIKE THAT AND---
SHE ISN'T MY GIRL FRIEND, JANE-- AT LEAST NOT AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED! NOW LET'S HAVE NO ARGUMENTS! YOU NEED A ROOM, AND I KNOW A WONDERFUL PLACE NOT FAR FROM HERE. AND-- MY NAME IS KEN, TO YOU!

LIFE WAS PRETTY WONDERFUL AFTER THAT--- FOR A WHILE, I KNEW I WAS IN LOVE WITH KEN BEFORE I'D KNOWN HIM A WEEK, AND AS FOR HIM-- WELL THERE WAS NOTHING SHY ABOUT KEN! HE TOLD ME HOW HE FELT EVERY HOUR ON THE HOUR!
SAY, I HAVE AN IDEA! LET'S SKIP GOING TO THE MOVIES AND GET MARRIED INSTEAD!
OH, KEN --- YOU IDIOT! HURRY UP OR WE'LL MISS THE FEATURE PICTURE!
BUT MUCH AS I LAUGHED AT KEN'S IMPETUOUS COURTSHIP, I'D HAVE GIVEN ANYTHING IN THE WORLD IF I HAD ONLY BEEN ABLE TO SAY YES! BUT I COULDN'T DO THAT UNTIL I'D TOLD KEN ABOUT MY PAST! I HOPED WITH ALL MY HEART THAT HE'D UNDERSTAND--- AND BELIEVE ME, I TRIED TO TELL HIM! BUT SOMEHOW, I NEVER FOUND THE RIGHT MOMENT----
KEN-- KEN, DARLING, THERE'S SOMETHING I MUST TALK TO YOU ABOUT---
TALK? OH, NO- NOT NOW, WHEN I HAVE SUCH A PERFECT EXCUSE TO HOLD YOU TIGHT! LET'S NOT SAY A WORD, HONEY --JUST DANCE!
AND THAT'S THE WAY IT WENT FOR NEARLY TWO MONTHS. I GUESS I WAS A FOOL TO LET THINGS DRIFT FOR SO LONG, BUT-- I BEGAN TO FIND OUT THAT I HAD OTHER PROBLEMS TO SOLVE, TOO!
ANY LUCK TODAY, SWEETS!? HOW ABOUT THAT RECEPTIONIST JOB YOU TOLD ME YOU WERE TRYING TO GET?
I-- I DIDN'T GET IT, KEN. IT WAS-- ALREADY TAKEN.
YOU SEE, I'D BEEN LOOKING FOR A JOB ALL DURING THAT TWO MONTHS. THE LITTLE MONEY I HAD IN THE BANK BEFORE MY ARREST WAS GONE AND I WAS GETTING DESPERATE. I HADN'T REALIZED HOW MUCH DIFFERENCE MY RECORD WOULD MAKE TO EMPLOYERS, BUT ONE DAY IT WAS BROUGHT HOME TO ME ALL AT ONCE---
--AND PLEASE DON'T BOTHER TO COME BACK AGAIN, MISS. THIS IS THE THIRD TIME YOU'VE BEEN HERE, AND I MIGHT AS WELL BE FRANK, DON'T YOU REALIZE THAT A COMPANY LIKE THIS CAN'T AFFORD TO RISK HIRING AN EX-CONVICT?!
OH-- I SEE I-- I DIDN'T THINK-- I HOPED IT WOULDN'T MAKE--
THERE IT WAS, OUT IN THE OPEN AT LAST! I KNEW THEN WHY I HADN'T BEEN ABLE TO FIND ANY SORT OF JOB! AND THEN, AS I SAT IN MY ROOM, DAZEDLY TRYING TO DECIDE WHAT TO DO-- THE FINAL BLOW CAME!
IT ISN'T FAIR! I SERVED MY TERM IN PRISON-- I'M SUPPOSED TO BE FREE NOW BUT WHAT KIND OF FREEDOM IS THIS -- FREEDOM TO STARVE?
KNOCK KNOCK
OH! IT'S-- SYLVIA, ISN'T IT? WHAT-- IS THERE SOMETHING I CAN DO FOR YOU?
FORGOTTEN ALL ABOUT ME, HAVE YOU-- JUST LIKE KEN HAS! WELL, I DIDN'T FORGET YOU, MISS BROWN!
WHY-- WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT!?
JUST THAT I'VE BEEN CHECKING UP ON YOU, DARLING-- AND I KNOW ALL ABOUT YOU!
5

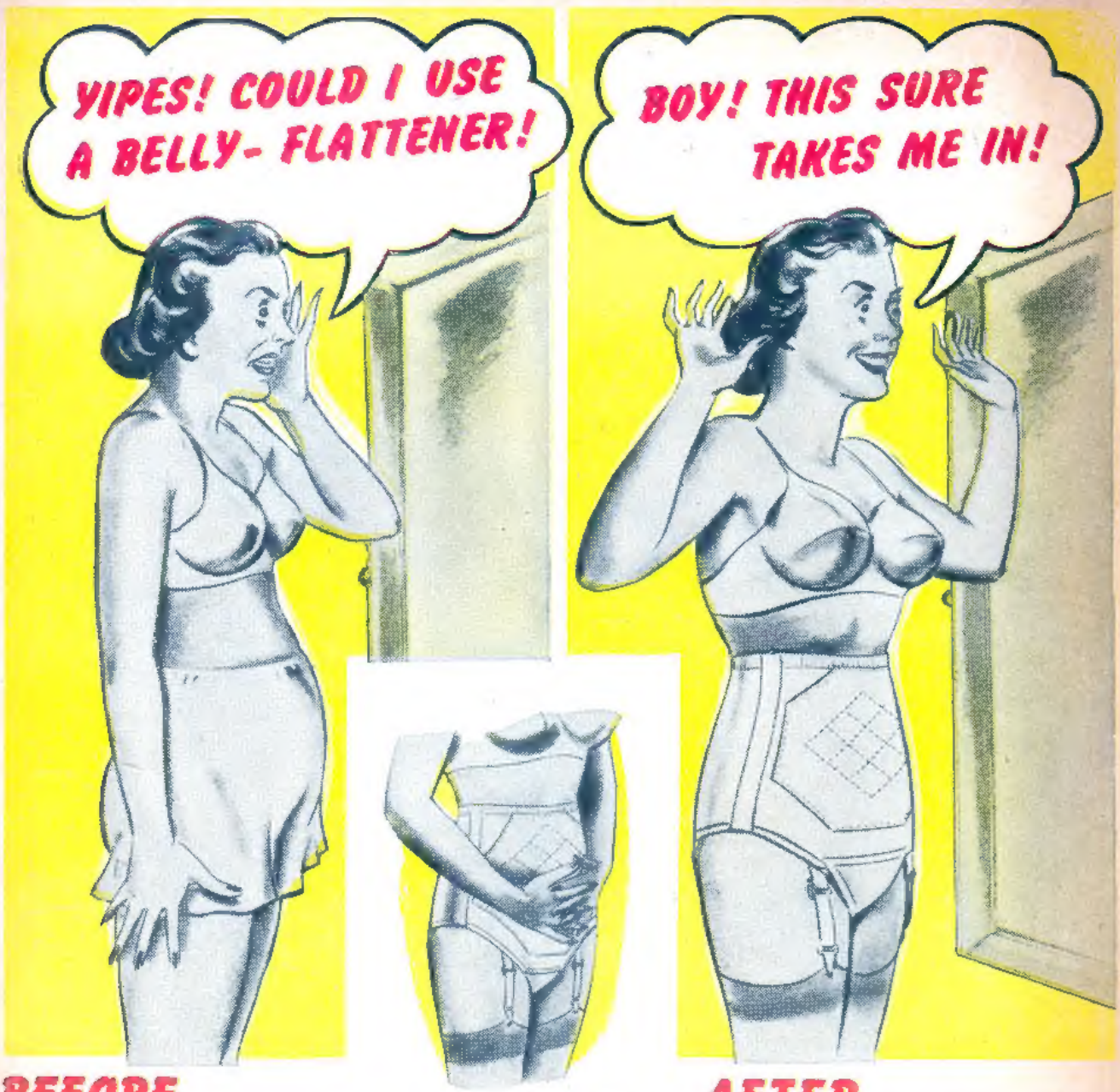
YOU'RE AN EX-CONVICT AREN'T YOU? DON'T DENY IT, BECAUSE I HAVE PROOF! I KNOW YOUR REAL NAME, WHY YOU WENT TO JAIL, AND ALL ABOUT YOU AND YOUR GANGSTER BOYFRIEND!
NO! I---IT ISN'T TRUE! YOU CANT PROVE--!
FOR A MOMENT, I WAS TERRIFIED! BUT THEN MY COURAGE CAME BACK, AND I TRIED TO SAVE MYSELF, I KNEW WHAT SHE WANTED ALRIGHT---KEN! BUT IT WAS NO USE--MY BLUFF FAILED!
YES--IT'S TRUE! BUT THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT, SYLVIA! I'M FREE NOW, AND I'VE TOLD KEN ALL ABOUT MYSELF---
YOU'RE LYING--- YOU HAVENT TOLD KEN ANYTHING! YOU'RE AFRAID TO TRY IT! YOU KNOW JUST AS WELL AS I DO THAT HE'D DROP YOU FAST ENOUGH TO MAKE YOUR HEAD SPIN!
DON'T BE A FOOL! I KNOW HIM BETTER THAN YOU DO! AND BESIDES, YOU KNOW KEN IS A TELLER AT THE GRAND NATIONAL BANK, AND IN LINE FOR A PROMOTION! WHAT DO YOU THINK HIS EMPLOYERS WOULD DO IF THEY FOUND OUT HE WAS RUNNING AROUND WITH A CROOK LIKE YOU?
HE WOULD NOT! KEN WOULD UNDERSTAND---!
YOU'RE LICKED AND YOU KNOW IT--AND YOU KNOW WHAT I WANT TOO! IF YOU SO MUCH AS SEE KEN ONCE MORE, I'LL TELL HIM ABOUT YOU--AND I'LL GO TO THE BANK, TOO! I'M WARNING YOU--YOU HAD BETTER DISAPPEAR, AND I DON'T MEAN TOMORROW!
THAT WAS THE DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY, MISS CARTER. I--I MOVED TO THIS PLACE WITHOUT EVEN LEAVING A NOTE FOR KEN! I COULDN'T FACE HIM--AND YET I COULDN'T STAY, AND RISK HURTING HIM! SO YOU SEE--- THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO--- NOTHING!
YOU'RE WRONG, JANE! IF KEN LOVES YOU AS MUCH AS IT APPEARS HE DOES, YOUR PAST WONT MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE TO HIM! AND AS FOR HIS JOB AT THE BANK--- WELL I HAPPEN TO KNOW SOMEONE IN AUTHORITY THERE AND---
NO, MISS CARTER! PLEASE, YOU MUSTN'T GO TO THE BANK! I WON'T TAKE A CHANCE ON RUINING KEN'S CAREER!
BUT JANE, I'M SURE THAT--- THERE'S SOMEONE AT YOUR DOOR, DEAR! ANSWER IT--FOR ALL YOU KNOW IT MAY BE KEN WITH THE ANSWER TO ALL OF YOUR PROBLEMS!

MICKEY! I TOLD YOU TO LEAVE ME ALONE! GET OUT OF HERE AND DON'T---
WHY BABY! THAT AIN'T AT ALL HOSPITABLE! ME AN THE BOYS COME TO PAY YA A LITTLE VISIT! COME ON IN, BOYS!
SO YOU'RE MICKEY CRANE! WHY DON'T YOU LET THIS GIRL LIVE HER OWN LIFE YOU BULLY? YOU'VE CAUSED HER ENOUGH TROUBLE ALREADY!
GEEZ I'M POPULAR EVERYBODY KNOWS ME! WHO'S THE OLD DAME BABY?
A--A FRIEND WE'RE BUSY, MICKEY--COME SOME OTHER TIME!
I GOT A JOB FOR YA, KID -- AN IT WONT WAIT! I KNOW A WAY TO MAKE THAT NEW BOYFRIEND OF YOURS HAND OVER PLENTY OF HIS BANK'S DOUGH-- AN' YOU'RE GONNA HELP!
KEN? DON'T BE A FOOL! HE WON'T DO IT! AND ANYWAY, I REFUSE TO HAVE ANY PART OF YOU OR YOUR PLANS
YOU'LL DO IT, CUTIE -- OR I'LL BREAK EVERY BONE IN YOUR BODY! AND JO JO'LL DO THE SAME FOR AUNTIE THERE!
I--I'M AFRAID IT'S NO USE, MISS C--AUNTIE! I CAN'T LET THEM HURT YOU!
DON'T DO IT, JANE! THEY CAN'T FRIGHTEN ME!
THAT'S A SMART GIRL! COME ON, AUNTIE--WE'RE TAKIN' YOU ALONG TOO-- I AIN'T LEAVIN' YOU HERE TO CALL THE COPS!
JANE, YOU CAN'T DO IT! THINK OF KEN! AND YOU--- YOU'RE ON PAROLE--
I KNOW-- WHAT I'M DOING!
NOW DON'T FORGET--WHEN WE GET TO THE BANK, YOU AN' AUNTIE GO OVER TO THE BOYFRIEND'S WINDOW. TELL HIM IF HE DON'T GIVE YOU ALL THE CASH HE'S GOT WE START SHOOTIN'--AN' BE SURE TO TELL HIM YOU GET KNOCKED OFF FIRST IF HE DON'T COME ACROSS! ALRIGHT, GET IN-- WE'RE ON OUR WAY
YOU'LL NEVER MAKE THIS WORK, CRANE
PLEASE, DO AS THEY SAY! MISS CARTER!!

TEN MINUTES LATER----
ALRIGHT GO AHEAD-- AN' REMEMBER, BABY, YOU GET THE FIRST SLUG IF ANYTHING GOES WRONG!
FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE, JANE -- ARE YOU GOING THROUGH WITH THIS?
WE HAVE ONLY A SECOND, MISS CARTER-- PLEASE LISTEN! I HAD TO GET THEM DOWN HERE WHERE THERE ARE AT LEAST GUARDS WITH GUNS! IF-- IF YOU'RE WILLING TO TAKE A CHANCE, I'M GOING TO WARN KEN!
GOOD GIRL, JANE! I UNDERESTIMATED YOU! I'LL TAKE THE CHANCE ALRIGHT!
JANE! JANE, WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN----?
KEN, IF YOU LOVE ME, LISTEN! THOSE MEN BY THE DOOR-- THEY'RE HERE TO ROB THE BANK! RING THE ALARM, KEN-- QUICK, BEFORE THEY SUSPECT ANYTHING!
IF YOU SAY SO, JANE -- THERE! THERE GOES THE ALARM!
DOWN, MISS CARTER! DOWN ON THE FLOOR!
KEN! THEY'LL TRY TO KILL JANE! STOP THEM--
RING
RRING
GET THOSE GUYS!
WE BEEN FRAMED! THE DAME FINGERED US!
THAT DIRTY--! I'LL GET HER IF IT'S THE LAST THING I EVER DO!
IT'S A HOLDUP!
DUCK! DOWN ON THE FLOOR!
LOOK OUT, JANE! CRANE'S GONE CRAZY!
I'LL GET YA, YA LITTLE STOOLIE! I'LL CLOSE YOUR BIG MOUTH FOR GOOD! GET OUTA MY WAY!
JANE! LOOKOUT, JANE!
NOW! NOW YA GET IT! HA HA HA!

YOU AGAIN! SO I GOTTA KNOCK YOU OFF TOO! OKAY, WISE GUY THIS TIME IS FOR KEEPS
KEN! KEN, DON'T!
SO LONG, PUNK, YOU'RE
AAGGHH
PHEW, THAT WAS CLOSE! THANKS, JONESY!
ONLY GLAD I GOT HIM IN TIME, MR. PARKER!
KEN! KEN DARLING, YOU'RE HURT!
IT'S NOT SERIOUS, JANEY! TELL ME WHERE YOU'VE BEEN -- I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU ALL OVER TOWN
I--I RAN AWAY, KEN! I SHOULD HAVE TOLD YOU -- ABOUT MYSELF, I MEAN -- BUT I WAS AFRAID TO AND--
GOSH, I WAS HOPING THAT WAS IT! WHAT A RELIEF
WHAT, A RELIEF? WHAT DO YOU MEAN, KEN?
JANEY, SYLVIA TOLD ME ABOUT YOU TWO DAYS AGO! YOU DIDN'T THINK THAT WOULD MATTER TO ME, DID YOU? THE ONLY THING I WAS WORRIED ABOUT WAS WHETHER YOU MIGHT HAVE GONE BECAUSE YOU'D STOPPED LOVING ME!
I HATE TO SAY I TOLD YOU SO, JANEY -- BUT DARN IT, I DID!
OH, KEN! STOPPED LOVING YOU! WHY, I COULDN'T STOP DOING THAT IN A MILLION YEARS
I'LL NEVER FORGET WHAT YOU'VE DONE FOR ME, MISS CARTER! AND I'M SORRY I GOT YOU INTO THIS---
WOULDN'T HAVE MISSED IT FOR THE WORLD, JANE -- I'M STILL A NEWSPAPER WOMAN, YOU KNOW! AND THAT REMINDS ME -- I'D BETTER GET THIS STORY IN BEFORE RIVAL PAPERS BEAT ME TO IT! GOODBYE, YOU TWO -- CONGRATULATIONS! SEND ME AN INVITATION!

TRUDY
AND
JUDY
HI, JUDY! GOSH, MY NEW BOY-FRIEND IS PERSISTENT! IT'S WONDERFUL!
HMMM-- WHAT DID HE DO?
WELL, HE KEPT TRYING TO KISS ME THE FIRST NIGHT I DATED HIM, AND I WOULDN'T LET HIM. FINALLY I PRETENDED TO BE MAD AND I SAID "I'M TELLING YOU FOR THE LAST TIME, I WON'T KISS YOU!" AND HE SAID "YOU SEE, I KNEW YOU'D WEAKEN!"
DOES HE LOVE YOU, TRUDY?
SURE HE DOES!
HOW CAN YOU BE SURE?
HE OBJECTS TO MY NEW BATHING SUIT! SAY, WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU TONIGHT?
OH, I FEEL TERRIBLE! JUST BLUE, I GUESS--
TRUDY
YOU OUGHT TO DO WHAT I DO WHEN I FEEL BLUE. I JUST CALL UP MY NEW BOYFRIEND AND HAVE HIM COME OVER. THEN HE HUGS ME AND KISSES ME, AND IN A LITTLE WHILE, I FEEL WONDERFUL!
HMMM, THAT SOUNDS FINE! YOU'VE CONVINCED ME---
WHAT'S YOUR NEW BOY FRIEND'S PHONE NUMBER?
EEEEK!



BEFORE Sagging muscles, bumps and bulges. Clothes looked awful. Nothing seemed to fit right. Couldn't wear any of the new styles.

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*T.M. Reg. U.S. Patent Office

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